THE LIMNER COMPANY

FREDERICK BUCK (1771 - 1839/40)

Portrait miniature of a Young Lady, wearing white dress with a white ribbon tied in a bow

Circa: circa 1810

circa 1810

Watercolour on ivory (licence FXCBBYC5)

Oval, 65 mm (2 ½ in) high

Frederick Buck was the younger brother of Adam Buck, also known for his work in miniature and watercolour. Unlike Adam, he stayed in Cork, where he had a large practice. Many of his portraits were of soldiers, who would anchor near Cork during the Peninsular War and have their likenesses taken. It is said that Buck would pre-prepare his ivories with basic uniforms and fill in facial details, allowing him to conduct his practice at an efficient speed for the number of sitters visiting him.

The same method may have also been used here; this young lady's elegant, curved neck and white dress can both be seen in other portraits painted by Buck. The low necklines of the 1810s emphasised the curvature of women's necks, which was seen as a beauty standard in Regency England. An obsession with Greco-Roman ideals influenced both this trend and a shift towards more simplistic fabrics and patterns in clothing.