

THE LIMNER COMPANY



ANDREW PLIMER (1763 - 1837)

Portrait miniature of a Lady, traditionally called Mrs Anna Blackburn, wearing a white dress, her hair lightly powdered and dressed with matching bandeau

Circa: circa 1790

circa 1790

Watercolour on ivory (licence UA67TADD)

Oval, 78mm (3 1/16in) high

Gold frame, reverse glazed to reveal seed pearl monogram AB on an oval blue glass plaque gilt, surrounded by a border of plaited hair

The most likely sitter for this portrait is Anne (not Anna) Blackburne (c. 1762-January 6, 1826) who was from the prominent Blackburne family of Orford Hall and Hale Hall in Lancashire. On August 3, 1786, she married William Bamford, Esq. of Bamford Hall and this portrait would therefore date to the first five years of their marriage. Her aunt, also an Anne Blackburne was a noted botanist and correspondent with Carl Linnaeus (b.1726).

This portrait by Plimer is a typical example from the apex of his career. Elegant and simple, his work reflected the Neoclassical lines which were favoured in fashion towards the end of the 18th century.