THE LIMNER COMPANY

ENGLISH SCHOOL (18th century)

Portrait enamel of a Gentleman, wearing blue jacket with white stock and cravat, his wig powdered white

circa 1780s

Enamel on metal

Oval, 46 mm (1 ¾ in) high

The present work dates to the late eighteenth century, when artists such as Nathaniel Hone (1718-1784) and Jeremiah Meyer (1735-1789) produced portrait miniatures in enamel. The technique had been brought to England in the previous century and became a popular but difficult manner of production. Creating a likeness required firing, which risked cracking and ruining the artwork if not done correctly. This portrait was possibly left unfinished by the artist.