



Portrait of a Lady: Sylvia, daughter of Charles Hunter, Esq.

Date

1902

Primary Maker

Antonio Mancini

Medium

Oil on canvas

Dimensions

76 x 61 cm

Description

Hugh Lane was given an introduction to Mancini by Mrs Mary Hunter, the wife of a wealthy English industrialist. As

well as favouring Antonio Mancini, the artists John Singer Sargent, Annie Swynnerton, and the writer Edith Wharton formed part of her circle. Mancini stayed at the country house of Mary Hunter in England where he painted the portraits of her two children including this work of her daughter Sylvia. While remaining an admirer of his work, Mancini's eccentricities, and at times, unintelligible speech, led him to be described by Mrs Hunter as 'quite honest but not sane or practical.' In 1907 Hugh Lane decided to bring Mancini to Ireland and in order to ensure his not getting lost on the way, a minder was paid for by Mrs Hunter to accompany the artist to Dublin.