



## Lady in Pigeon Grey Velvet Dress

**Adolphe Girardot (after Mansion)**

1823

watercolour and gouache on ivory

signed lower left: Girardot/1823.

oval: 13.6cm x 10.1cm

gilt metal frame

This portrait of a lady in a grey dress with a lace bonnet, silk ribbons and an arrangement of roses was based on an original miniature by Mansion, another copy of which belongs to the Wallace Collection (inv. M278). Girardot was probably one of Mansion's students and copied the portrait in his studio. The lady's very impersonal facial features suggest that Mansion did not paint this miniature from life, but had an imaginary sitter. It is therefore conceivable that Mansion did not sell the original, but kept it as an object of study in his studio, where his students could gain practice by copying it. The various textiles such as lace, silk ribbons and velvet, and the roses seem to appear to allow detailed study of these materials. Furthermore, the year in which Girardot created his copy is also the year when Mansion published his "Letters on miniature painting" and illustrates Mansion's interest in teaching during this period.

B. P.

Tansey Collection / Celle