

SARAH COLEGRAVE
FINE ART

Portrait of Effie by John Everett Millais

John Everett Millais



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Description

SIR JOHN EVERETT MILLAIS, BT, PRA
(1829-1896)

Effie

Signed l.r.: Millais
Pencil
Framed

30.5 by 13.5 cm., 12 by 5 ¼ in.
(frame size 30 by 47 cm., 11 ¾ by 18 ½ in.)

Provenance:
Private collection, UK.

Executed c.1853, this portrait is closely related to the smaller Portrait of Effie Ruskin now in the collection of the National Gallery of Canada. Effie is shown wearing a similar lowcut gown with braided hair piece and a dark ribbon at her neck.

In July 1853 Millais became close to Effie Ruskin during their long visit to Scotland to paint Millais' famous portrait of Ruskin. The five-year Ruskin marriage had been difficult with Ruskin largely ignoring his wife. During their long stay in the small cottage at Brig o'Turk, Effie and Millais had fallen in love. On their return to London the Ruskin marriage was over, to be annulled in 1854 on the ground of "incurable impotency". Effie and Millais were married in 1855 and they were to have eight children together.