Violet Rutland - Portrait of Lady Diana Cooper

Violet, Duchess Of Rutland

Sold



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Description

VIOLET, DUCHESS OF RUTLAND(1856-1937)
Portrait of Lady Diana Cooper – on the train to Philadelphia
Inscribed l.r.: Off to Philadelphia – in train Feb 1924PencilFramed
11 by 8.5 cm., 4 ½ by 3 ½ in.(frame size 29 by 26 cm., 11 ½ by 10 ¼ in.)
Marion Margaret Violet Lindsay married Henry Manners in 1882. He became Marquess of Granby and succeeded to the Dukedom of Rutland in 1906. Said to be one of the most striking beauties of her day she was also a talented artist and sculptor, exhibiting at the Royal Academy, Grosvenor Gallery and Fine Art Society as well as in France and America. She was a leading member of a loosely-knit social group of intellectual aristocrats known as The Souls. The group, which formed in the 1870s, were known for their shared avant-garde artistic taste and cultural sophistication. Other members included Arthur Balfour, George Curzon, Alfred Lyttelton and Margot Asquith.
This portrait is of her youngest daughter, Lady Diana Manners. Another great wit and beauty, Diana was one of the most photographed and painted women of her day. In 1919 she married the diplomat, Duff Cooper (later Viscount Norwich) and partly in order to finance her husband's political career she turned to the stage. The present work depicts Lady Diana Cooper on a train to Philadelphia during her 1924 North American revival of The Miracle. The play was originally produced by C B Cochran at Olympia, London in 1911 with Diana taking the role of the Madonna. It was revived in New York in 1924 and again at the Lyceum Theatre in 1932 with costumes by Oliver Messel. The revival was extremely successful and toured for two years in the Britain and abroad.