

Basic Detail Report



Slave Girl

Date

ca. 1880

Primary Maker

Valentine Cameron Prinsep

Medium

oil on canvas

Description

Although Prinsep was associated with Rossetti and the Pre-Raphaelites, the Orientalist composition, *Slavegirl* more accurately reflects the work of the so-called High Renaissance Victorian painters after the 1850s, such as George Frederick Watts (whose greatest patron, Thorby, was Valentine's father). These artists adopted a classical figurative approach based on 16th century Italian art and

sculpture. This intriguing image of a beautiful, occidental woman hovering within Eastern surroundings, reflects the Victorian fascination with the exotic and the romantic, as well as the interest of the Indian-born artist, who painted a number of similar works. Tales of the white slave trade were popular contemporary subjects of artistic and literary compositions, stories of European women kept as slaves or wives in Middle Eastern harems being titillating, if not factual. Here, sumptuously painted details suggest a palatial, Islamic setting.

Dimensions

Sight: 35 1/2 x 27 1/2 in. (90.2 x 69.9 cm) Framed: 48 x 40 1/4 x 2 7/8 in. (121.9 x 102.2 x 7.3 cm)