

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



Selina, Lady Skipwith

Joshua Reynolds (British, 1723–1792)

Date 1787

Medium Oil on canvas

Dimensions 50 1/2 x 40 1/4 in. (128.3 x 102.2 cm)

Credit Line Henry Clay Frick Bequest

Accession Number 1906.1.102

Currently On View

First Floor, Room 11, Library

Commentary Selina Shirley (1752–1832) was married in 1785 to Sir Thomas George Skipwith of Newbold Hall, Warwickshire. Lady Skipwith had a reputation as a skilled horsewoman, and a nephew recorded that “there was something rather formidable in her powdered hair and [the] riding habit or joseph which she generally wore.” Reynolds’ notebooks show that he painted her in May of 1787. The natural pose and setting and the fresh, free handling of paint are typical of the artist’s late style, partly in response to the work of Gainsborough. Source: *Art in The Frick Collection: Paintings, Sculpture, Decorative Arts*, New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1996.

Collection History Lady Skipwith, Newbold Hall, Warwickshire. Sir Grey Skipwith, Bart. Sir Grey Humberston D’Estoteville Skipwith. Knoedler. Frick, 1906. Source: *Paintings in The Frick Collection: American, British, Dutch, Flemish and German. Volume I*. New York: The Frick Collection, 1968.