

Whistler - arrangements in grey and black

Glasgow Art Gallery - Whistler Paintings, Bio, Ideas



Description: -

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Portrait painting -- 19th century -- Exhibitions.

Whistler, James McNeill, -- 1834-1903 -- Exhibitions. Whistler - arrangements in grey and black

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Tags: #Arrangement #in #Grey #and #Black #No. #1: #Portrait #of #the #Artist's #Mother

Arrangement in Black and Gray by Whistler

There was Carlyle sitting motionless, like a Heathen God or Oriental sage, and Whistler hopping about like a sparrow. However, please note that the dimensions of the length and breadth of the original will need to be maintained in the same ratio. Considered an iconic painting, Portrait of the Artist's Mother is one of a very few, including Edvard Munch's The Scream and Grant Wood's American Gothic, that can be appreciated by the art-viewing elite while also resonating with the masses with minimal explanation required.

Arrangement in Grey and Black, No 1 (the Artist's Mother), James Abbott McNeill Whistler (1871)

In the painting Whistler reverted to the planar composition of Arrangement in Grey and Black: Portrait of the Artist's Mother, and included the robe that created a broader shape, reminiscent of the dress from the earlier picture. The soft colors and dreamy, atmospheric quality created through Whistler's use of broad, sweeping brushstrokes also marks this painting as an important precursor to the American Tonalist movement of the 1880s. And all this comes into play in this familial portrait.

Arrangement in Grey and Black. Portrait of the Painter's Mother

His mother's pear-shaped black silhouette in an all-covering dress and the white lace bonnet on her tightly bound hair bring a severe, contradictory moralism into Whistler's aesthetic room. In 1891 the painting became the first American work to be purchased by the French government.

Arrangement in Grey and Black No. 1: Portrait of the Artist's Mother

Her figure is hardly recognizable under the expansive black and flat-effect dress, only the left hand and the two feet, which stand on a square footstool, give the figure something like depth.

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Another is that Whistler originally envisioned painting the model standing up, but that his mother was too uncomfortable to pose standing for an extended period.

Arrangement in Grey and Black No. 1: Portrait of the Artist's Mother

Looking forward to adding these paintings to the dozen or so I have already purchased from your company.

Whistler's Mother

He places his mother in a room that reflects her son's refined tastes, from the dripping, dancing curtain like one of his nocturnes to the Japanese footstool, the elegant chair legs and fine pictures. Perhaps it is the strange, contradictory structure of the painting - almost absurd in its emphasis on formal composition, yet at the same time evoking in his mother's weathered, bony profile the harsh moral character of Puritan America - that has made this one of the most instantly recognised of portraits.

Whistler's Mother (Arrangement in Grey and Black No.1) by James Abbott McNeill Whistler

James McNeill Whistler, Arrangement in Grey and Black, No.

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