A Woman washing clothes outside a Cottage

Francis Wheatley

Guy Peppiatt Fine Art Ltd.
Riverwide House, 6 Mason's Yard, Duke St. St. James's, London, SW1Y 6BU
T: 020 7930 3839 M: 07956 968 284 E: guy@peppiattfineart.co.uk www.peppiattfineart.co.uk

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Description

Francis Wheatley, R.A. (1747-1801)
A Woman washing clothes outside a Cottage

Pen and grey ink and watercolour, oval
17.6 by 22.7 cm., 7 by 9 in.

Born the son of a tailor in Covent Garden, Wheatley studied painting at Shipley's School and at the Royal Academy Schools from 1769. Redgrave's Dictionary recalls `In early life he made many theatrical acquaitances, and was led into extravagance and debt.' To avoid his debtors he fled to Dublin with the wife of the watercolour painter John Alexander Gresse where he achieved success as a portrait painter. On his return to London, he specialised in genre paintings in oil and watercolour, many of which were engraved. He was elected to the Royal Academy in 1791 and his series `Cries of London' was popular as engravings in the late 1790s.

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