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Daniel O'Neill (1920-1974)

FLORENCE

oil on board

signed lower left

24.50 by 18.50in. (62.23 by 46.99cm)

O'Neill painted still lifes, landscapes, religious pictures and many figure studies. Whether in the guise of the bride, the actress or the muse - portraits of women remained a constant theme. His women, brooding and often taken out of time, could be hauntingly archetypal and melancholic; at other times dressed theatrically in historical costume.

In some works his figures register correspondences with the sky or the moon. In his painting Florence, however the background is neutralised so as to focus on the subject. The face is stylised and her 'Picasso' eyes seem to stare into the distance. O'Neill's love of depicting pattern can be seen in his simplified treatment of the necklace; while the swirling brush strokes of the cuffs and collar of her dress underline the importance of texture for him. Blue, a favourite choice, is the unifying dominant colour, linking backdrop and figure and recalling the decorative aspects of Renoir.

Prof. Liam Kelly
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€25,000-€35,000 (£20,491-£28,688 approx).