



199

**Robert Hunter (c.1715/20-c.1803)**

PORTRAIT OF HARRY HOUGHTON, 1790

oil on canvas

signed and dated lower left

30 by 25in. (76 by 64cm)

*Provenance:*

Christies, 1 March 1985, lot 113;

The Collection of David White / Elizabeth Guinness;

with The Bell Gallery, Belfast;

Private collection

*Literature:*

Crookshank, Anne, 'Robert Hunter', *Irish Arts Review Yearbook*, 1989/90, Vol. 87, p.169-185 (illustrated p.179)

Half-length portrait where the sitter is painted within an oval, a device used regularly by Hunter. This is the latest known portrait by the artist, which is dated 1790.

Robert Hunter was the principal portrait painter of the eighteenth century. Little is known about his early life or his family other than he was born in Ulster and studied art under Thomas Pope. Hunter had a very wide range of clients such as Sir Charles Burton, Lord Taaffe, Samuel Madden and Viscount Powerscourt. He contributed six works to the exhibition of the Society of Artists in George's Lane, Dublin in 1765. He regularly contributed to the exhibition of the Dublin Artists up to 1777, and again, for the last time, in 1788. Hunter was for many years at the head of his profession as a portrait painter until the arrival of Robert Home in 1780. Age may also have been another contributing factor to the decline in his productivity. He held an exhibition and sale of his pictures in 1792.

€2,000-€3,000 (£1,650-£2,480 approx.)

Ex 200



Ex 200



200

**George Armfield (c.1808-1893)**

TERRIER and RETRIEVERS (A PAIR)

oil on board; (2)

each signed lower left

9 by 10¾in. (23 by 25cm)

Of equal size; framed uniformly.

€1,000-€1,500 (£830-£1,240 approx.)