

ADRIAN ALAN

Fine Art & Antiques



After WILLIAM ETTY (1787 - 1849)

'The Judgement of Paris'

Circa: Circa 1825

144 x 172 cm (56³/₁₆ x 67³/₁₆ inches)

Oil on Canvas

England

1825

'The Judgement of Paris' - A Large Oil Painting after *William Etty, R.A.* (1787-1849).

Oil on Canvas.

The painting depicts the Greek mythological story of the *'Judgement of Paris'*, as told by Lucian in the *'Judgement of the Goddesses'*.

Paris the son of King Priam of Troy had to decide which of the three goddesses was the most beautiful: Aphrodite, Hera or Athena. He chose Aphrodite and awarded her a golden apple. The jealousy and indignation of the others precipitated the Trojan War.

Hera with her symbolic attribute the Peacock, stands with her back to the viewer turning shocked and angry as she is spurned; Athena stands resolute with her armour and spear resigned to Paris's decision; Aphrodite with her son Cupid at her side feigns modesty and accepts the apple from his hand. The tension of the painting lies not only in the turning or rotation of the three central figures within the foreground but in the depiction of the stormy sky and the looming presence of the Fury, Alecto.