PAGODA
RED

REVERSE GLASS PORTRAIT OF BEAUTY IN BLUE

$480

c. 1900 • China • Pigment, Glass • Collection #QQ093A

W: 13.5″ D: 0.75″ H: 17.5″

With sparkling color and an unsophisticated treatment of perspective, this reverse glass portrait of a young woman posed with crossed hands beneath a decorative drape is a great expression of early 20th century Chinese export folk art. Thought to have developed during the Italian Renaissance, reverse glass painting spread throughout Europe and remained popular for centuries. During the Qing dynasty, the practice became particularly popular in Canton where artists created idyllic glass paintings for European export. Continued...

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Using fine brushes, the artist worked backward to create this portrait on glass, first painting the minute details of the facial features and patterns, then filling in the larger blocks of color seen in the woman's blouse and skirt.