

## Portrait of Lady Emily Mary Lennox Duchess of Leinster

A portrait of Lady Emily Mary Lennox by Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792) was brought by the OPW in 2019 and is on display in Castletown House, which was the home of Emily's sister, Lady Louisa Conolly.

Emilia Mary was born on 6 October 1731, the second of the seven surviving children of Charles Lennox, 2nd Duke of Richmond and Lennox and Sarah, daughter of William Cadogan, Earl Cadogan. Lady Emily Lennox, as she was known, was also a god-daughter of George II. She spent her early years at Goodwood House in Sussex.

Lady Emily was married at the age of 15, to James Fitzgerald, Earl of Kildare. After their wedding in London in 1744 they moved back to Ireland living in Carton House, Maynooth, Frescatti House, Blackrock, and Leinster House.

Emily was very influential in promoting and developing her husband's career through her interest in current affairs. She was the most intellectual of the Lennox sisters. She read widely and had strong interests in British politics, philosophy, and theology. All of which played their part in obtaining Kildare a Marquessate in 1761, and the Dukedom of Leinster in 1766.

It was because of her involvement in these areas that for many years Emily was known as 'the Queen of Ireland'. She was particularly drawn to the new Enlightenment philosophies of such writers as Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Lady Emily had 19 children with the Duke. She caused a scandal when she married her children's tutor, William Ogilvie, after the death of her husband in 1773. They had three children.

The portrait of Emily by Sir Joshua Reynolds was painted in 1774, when she was in London visiting her dying sister, Caroline, Lady Holland. She was 43 at the time. Emily died on 27 March 1814 aged 82 in Mayfair London and is buried at Westminster Abbey in the Duke of Richmond's Vault.

The Office of Public Works (OPW) together with the Castletown Foundation, and with support of the Friends of the National Collections of Ireland, acquired a portrait of Emily FitzGerald, the Duchess of Leinster. The painting originally hung in the dining room of Carton House.

Joshua Reynolds (16 July 1723 – 23 February 1792) was an English portrait painter. John Russell said he was one of the major European painters of the 18th century. He promoted the "Grand Style" in painting which depended on idealization of the imperfect. He was a founder and first president of the Royal Academy of Arts, and was knighted by George III in 1769. Joshua Reynolds also painted portraits of other family members : - Charles Lennox, 3rd Duke of Richmond, Lady Caroline Holland, Lady Sarah Bunbury, and Thomas Conolly, husband of Lady Louisa.



**Portrait of Emily Mary, Duchess of Leinster, bust-length, in a pink dress and ermine shawl, within a painted oval.**

**By Sir Joshua Reynolds :  
Oil on canvas 86.2 x 62.6 cm.**



Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792)