



**BUST OF A NYMPH ATTRIBUTED TO PATRICK
MACDOWELL RA**

Dimensions: H: 23 in / 58 cm | W: 15 in / 38 cm | D: 8.5 in / 22 cm

Dimensions: H (overall): 62 in / 157 cm

10670



Bust of a Nymph

Attributed to Patrick Macdowell RA (1799-1870)

Carved from a radiant white statuary marble, the female [bust](#) of a nymph with her eyes cast downward to her sinister, her hair tied back and gently flowing across her ears, nape and shoulder, held in place with a band carved with scrolled motif. On a carved alabaster pedestal.

Irish, active in Britain, circa 1850

A closely related female bust entitled *La Penserosa*, made between 1853-1856, was purchased by Prince Albert, and still forms part of the Royal Collection today at Osborne House where it is on view in the Grand Corridor (RCT 41011).

Possibly the sculpture lent by the Royal Academy of Art to the National Exhibition of Works of Art at Leeds in 1868 (no. 626).

Patrick MacDowell, RA (1799-1870), was a prominent Irish sculptor celebrated for his [classical](#) portraiture and sentimental 'ideal' figure studies. Born in Belfast, he moved to England following his father's death and eventually apprenticed under the London-based French sculptor Peter Francis Chenu.

MacDowell gained prominence after enrolling in the Royal Academy Schools in 1830, exhibiting regularly thereafter. He was elected a Royal Academician in 1846. His career was defined by two distinct modes: formal commemorative statuary which included commissions for the Palace of Westminster, St Paul's Cathedral, and the Albert Memorial (his celebrated allegorical group, Europe) and his private work including delicate, often pensive, marble female figures such as A Girl Reading (1838) and Leah (1855).