Angelica Kauffmann was born on October 18, 1741, in Chur, Switzerland. She was the only child of painter Johann Joseph Kauffmann and Charlotte Draper. As a child, her family moved around Switzerland and France, and she was tutored at home. By the age of 13, she was drawing scenes from religious works and historical events. By the age of 18, she had mastered the art of drawing and was well-versed in the techniques of her father and other artists of the period. In 1758, she moved to London, where she was accepted into the Royal Academy of Arts. The Academy was a prestigious institution that provided artists with a platform to showcase their work and gain recognition. Kauffmann quickly gained a reputation for her artistic abilities and was soon commissioned to paint portraits of notable figures, including the Duke of Portland and the Duke of Northumberland. She was also commissioned to paint a series of portraits of members of the British aristocracy, which were highly regarded and popular. Kauffmann's work was recognized for its elegance and sophistication, and she soon became a leading figure in the British art world. She was the first woman to be elected a full member of the Royal Academy in 1768, and she went on to become a celebrated artist in her own right. Kauffmann was celebrated in her own time, and she was recognized for her contributions to the field of art. She was honored with numerous accolades and was considered one of the most important artists of her time. Her work continues to be admired today, and she is remembered as a pioneering figure in the field of art.
ANGELICA KAUFFMANN
Swiss, 1741–1807

A PORTRAIT OF MARY TISDAL READING
c. 1771–1772, oil on canvas, 24 3/4 x 29 3/4 in.

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