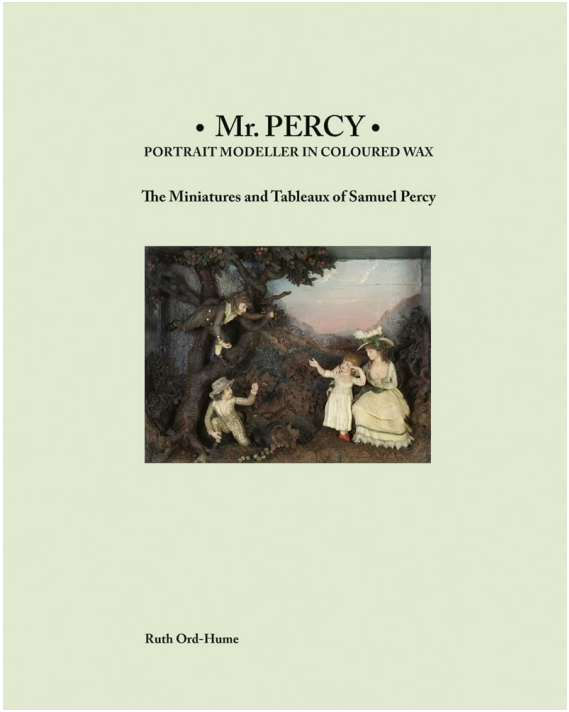
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Mr Percy: Portrait Modeller in Coloured Wax: The Miniatures and Tableaux of Samuel Percy

Ruth Ord-Hume

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- First major reference book on Samuel Percy, modeler of miniature portraits and tableaux in colored wax
- Contains detailed information on Percy, as well as his contemporary modellers in Britain, Ireland and America
- A chapter has been devoted to Percy's tableaux, which have never before been subjected to study
- Of interest to museum and gallery curators, art historians, economic and social historians and anyone who collects portrait miniatures

"Erudite, while still being fun to read." — **Professor Tim Neild**, physiologist and medical educator

"A triumph of Social History in the Georgian period." — **Dr Nigel Cooke FRCP**, physician and ceramic historian

This is the first biography and reference book dedicated to Samuel Percy, a modeler who produced an impressive oeuvre of wax portraits and tableaux in the mid-to-late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Based in part on the author's own substantial collection of Percy waxes, this book follows Percy from his beginnings in Dublin, at the Dublin Society Drawing Schools, working with the famed statuary John Van Nost; to England, where he journeyed from town to town, putting advertisements in regional newspapers. These revealing advertisements have been gathered here for the first time, in order to track his travels. Whether taking the likeness of Princess Charlotte of Wales, or falling victim to a highway robber in Birmingham, these fragments of Percy's history paint a fascinating picture of his life as a wandering artisan. As well as a chronological narrative of Percy's life, this book commits an entire chapter to an area of his work that has never been studied before: his miniature tableaux. These portray various subjects, both religious and secular, from Christ on the Cross to playing children. They are catalogued in an appendix, and almost thirty are illustrated. Based entirely on original research, ***Mr. Percy: Portrait Modeller in Coloured Wax*** features over a hundred illustrations, celebrating both Percy's accomplishments and the works of other modellers for comparison.

Since retiring from a career in university administration, **Ruth Ord-Hume** has been researching Samuel Percy and his life. She has visited museums across the UK and traveled to America in pursuit of information, establishing a network of contacts in both academic and commercial circles en route. With articles published in *The Sculpture Journal* and *Antique Collecting*, she has also contributed to the section on Samuel Percy in the online version of *A Biographical Dictionary of Sculptors in Britain, 1660-1851*. She is possibly the only current specialist in the field.

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