



PHOTOGRAPHER: **JOHN QUINCY REED** (b. 1841 or 1842, d. 1902)

SITTER: *Oval Bust Portrait of a Woman With Color Applied to her Cheeks, Lips, Eyes and Jewelry*

DATE: 1874-1898

FORMAT: enlarged reprint of original carte de visite

IMPRINT: "J. Q. Reed, Photographic Artist, Over Wells, Fargo & Co's Ex. Office, Main St., Petaluma, Cal."

PRIVATE COLLECTION

This portrait of an unknown, young, Petaluma woman is exceptional because of the high quality of its hand-coloring. If you look carefully, you can see that color has been applied to the woman's face, lips and eyes. Her brown hair has been highlighted especially where it has been pulled from her temple back into her bun, and her neck brooch and chain have been painted gold.

Carte de visite photographs were relatively inexpensive, but a photographer could charge significantly more for a colorized version. Many photographers employed "retouchers" to apply color to their photographs, and many retouchers were young women. Although possessing skilled draughtsmanship and steady hands, most of these artisans have remained anonymous.



Paula Freund, 2017

A retoucher at her work bench