Fechin Painting

https://www.dropbox.com/s/ogrn7i1xatoaxom/fechin_eya.jpg?dl=0

Can also be seen in Master here:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/yunzu94j667fbrg/319_Master_fechinhEtAl.jpg?dl=0

Bequeathed to Alice Mitchell via Alice Sharp. Verified by C.P. Dunning (Dunnings Appraisers) April 1997 for Alice R. Sharp Estate. Description in Dunnings Appraisal:

> Nicolai Ivanovich Fechin (American 1881-1955), "Portrait of Eya Fechin", oil painting on canvas; signed lower right; 16 x 12"; Eya Fechin, Daughter of Nicolai Fechin and subject of this painting, has reviewed a photograph of this oil and said that it was painted in Russia before she was nine years old. She further said that it was signed here and that it appeared to be a true and correct oil by her father despite the fact that the signature was in English not Russian .

Fechin's work has long been recognized by U.S. collectors, but it has been drawing more and more attention and demand from Russian collectors in recent years. See
https://www.dropbox.com/s/1qcvq8e6b22yqov/artnews.com-11M%20Price%20Tag%20for%20Fechin%20Painting%20Stuns%20LondonAuctiongoers.pdf?dl=0

Response to
State Farm Appraisal (page 18):
https://www.dropbox.com/s/9lehvg0cewkpftu/SF_Paintings_appraisal.pdf?dl=0

Our difference of opinion is primarily technical-based.

The appraisers reasoning is based on perceived blemishes using the photo we provided:

> Condition: Assumed to have been in good and intact condition, although with some apparent problems. **When the photo is enlarged** the impasto paint appears to have been flattened, perhaps due to a past lining, particularly noticeable in the hair surrounding the face. **The paint also appears somewhat cloudy,** which may be a chemical residue from a previous cleaning.

And concludes:

> *I concluded that Comp #3 is the most relevant in terms of ranking and value. While it is smaller, it has an important exhibition record and was sold at a date close to the date of loss of the Subject painting. I have, however, **adjusted for what appears to be a condition problem** in the subject painting.*

First, the Dunning's appraisal never noted such damage.

Second, the painting was kept in a dimly lighted area in the Master bedroom and was very well maintained since the inheritance.

Third, this is a digitized photo not of professional quality. The picture provided was taken by Kelly Weimer on iPhone 6 in 2017. Like all modern digitized photos, the metadata is also captured (and can be viewed using photo tools). Shown at the bottom in bold, this metadata records the specifics of the camera and its settings when it was taken.

Though dimly lit, the camera did not flash. Note the Exposure Time of 1/4 and Shutter Speed Value of 1/5. In professional situations these values are "mainly used for motion blur effects and/or low-light photography, but only practical with a tripod-supported camera." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shutter_speed Kelly did not use a Tripod when taking this. Also, note the DPI (dots per Inch) of 72, a low quality value for visual web browsing, fast downloading, but not for "enlargement", nor for visual eyesight assessment.

It is understandable a non technical person would make this error, since even an experience computer graphics scientist using sophisticated tools would have trouble making such a judgement.

Finally, the State Farm Appraiser bases its value of $150,000 on the comparable called **"**Russian Girl in Headscarf", which sold for: $217,0420 but was almost half the size. Also note again, this is not the artist's most prized subjects, his daughter.

Therefore we believe the similar sized painting comparable (Comp #5) is valid:

$317,000.00

DPI Height: 72
DPI Width: 72
Aperture Value: 2.275
Brightness Value: -0.439
Color Space: sRGB

Components Configuration: 1, 2, 3, 0
Date Time Digitized: Aug 20, 2017 at 4:14:07 PM
Date Time Original: Aug 20, 2017 at 4:14:07 PM
Exif Version: 2.2.1
Exposure Bias Value: 0
Exposure Mode: Auto exposure
Exposure Program: Normal program
Exposure Time: 1/4
Flash: Auto, Did not fire
FlashPix Version: 1.0
FNumber: 2.2
Focal Length: 4.15
Focal Length In 35mm Film: 29
ISO Speed Ratings: 100
Lens Make: Apple
Lens Model: iPhone 6 Plus back camera 4.15mm f/2.2
Lens Specification: 4.15, 4.15, 2.2, 2.2
Metering Mode: Pattern
Pixel X Dimension: 3,264
Pixel Y Dimension: 2,448
Scene Capture Type: Standard
Scene Type: A directly photographed image
Sensing Method: One-chip color area sensor
Shutter Speed Value: 1/5
Subject Area: 1,631, 1,223, 1,795, 1,077
Sub-second Time Digitized: 406
Sub-second Time Original: 406
White Balance: Auto white balance