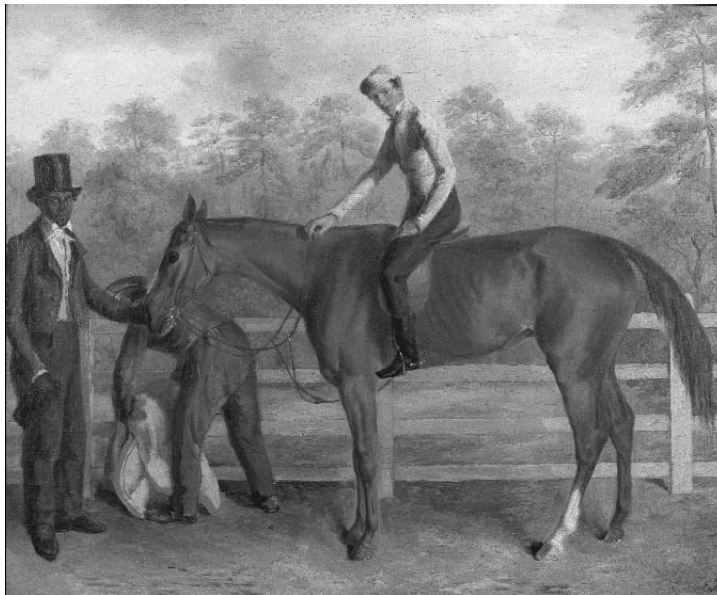


IMAGE 3



Alvan Fisher (1792–1863), *Sir Archy by Diomed out of Castianira*, ca. 1823–25. Oil on canvas. (Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond. Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis. © Virginia Museum of Fine Arts)



Edward Troye (1808–1874), *Trifle*, 1832. Oil on canvas. (Private Collection)

These two horse portraits depict physical change to the thoroughbred form from the early nineteenth century to the 1830s. Sir Archy (top) was foaled in 1806 and became the country's leading sire in the 1810s. Although his portrait shows him at stud weight rather than racing weight, his stocky torso, erect neck, and impressive musculature reveal the power and heft of earlier thoroughbreds. Trifle (bottom) is shown at race fitness. Nonetheless, her long legs, smaller stature, and leaner build were representative of the top-tier thoroughbreds of the 1830s. Even permitting some artistic license in both images, when considered together they reveal significant changes to the ideal form sought by top owners.