



Henry De Groux (1867-1930) Portrait Of An Elegant Lady, 1928



5 500 EUR

Signature : Henry de Groux

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Description

Henry de Groux (1867-1930) Portrait of an Elegant Lady, 1928 Oil on canvas, signed and dated 1928 lower left. This refined female portrait is a late work by Henry de Groux, one of the leading figures of Belgian Symbolism. Painted just two years before the artist's death, it perfectly illustrates the freedom and confidence that characterize his mature style. The elegant sitter is depicted reclining on a richly upholstered sofa, wearing a flowing light-coloured dress and a pearl necklace. Rather than pursuing strict realism, De Groux creates an atmosphere through colour and movement. The painting is distinguished by its remarkably personal palette. Golden yellows, ochres, mauves, pinks and delicate greens merge into a luminous harmony instantly recognizable as one of the artist's

Dealer

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signatures. These rare chromatic harmonies place the work firmly within the refined aesthetic of the Art Deco period. Broad, confident brushstrokes animate both the fabrics and the flesh tones, giving the composition remarkable vitality while preserving the elegance of the sitter. Painter, engraver, illustrator and sculptor, Henry de Groux was one of the most important Belgian artists of his generation. A close associate of Paul Verlaine, Léon Bloy and Pierre Louÿs, he also executed the monumental decorative paintings for the staircase of the Marseille Opera House. Today, several of his works belong to prestigious collections, including that of renowned decorator Jacques Garcia at the Château du Champ de Bataille. An appealing work combining strong decorative presence with the unmistakable pictorial language of one of Belgium's most singular artists.

Dimensions: Canvas: 65 × 81 cm
Frame: 92 × 97 cm

The Gallery's View

Henry de Groux remains an artist who defies easy categorisation. A Symbolist through his monumental literary and religious compositions, and almost Expressionist in the energy of his brushwork, he reveals a more intimate side of his talent in portraits such as this one, where colour becomes the true protagonist. Painted in 1928, just two years before the artist's death, this work belongs to his late production, a period that remains relatively little known yet possesses a remarkable pictorial freedom. What immediately captivates the eye is the extraordinary harmony of warm yellows, soft mauves, delicate pinks and subtle greens, creating a luminous atmosphere of striking modernity. Rather than seeking photographic likeness, De Groux captures a presence through colour, light and gesture. The broad, confident brushstrokes breathe life into the fabrics and flesh tones, while preserving the elegance and refinement of the sitter. At a time when many society portraits favoured polished academic finish, Henry de Groux embraced a far more personal and expressive approach. Nearly a century later, this freedom gives the painting a

timeless decorative quality that feels as
contemporary as it is unmistakably rooted in the
Art Deco era.