

STERN PISSARRO GALLERY

IMPRESSIONIST - MODERN & CONTEMPORARY ART - SINCE 1964



HENRI MATISSE
(1869 - 1954)

Henriette lisant

Charcoal and stump on paper
31.5 x 34.4 cm (12 ³/₈ x 13 ¹/₂ inches)

Signed lower left, *Henri Matisse*
Executed *circa* 1923

Provenance

Beaux Arts Gallery, London

Parke-Bernet Galleries, Inc., New York, 1961

Paul Kantor Gallery, Beverly Hills

E. V. Thaw & Co. (The New Gallery), New York

Christie, Manson & Woods, Ltd., London, 1964

Kramer collection, acquired from the above sale

Madame A. G. Cohen, London

Christie, Manson & Woods, Ltd., London, 1966

Private collection, acquired from the above sale

Private collection, by descent

Sotheby's London, 1995

Ann and Gordon Getty, San Francisco, acquired from the above sale

Christie's New York, 2022

Private collection, acquired from the above

Exhibitions

Paris, Galerie Bernheim-Jeune, *Henri Matisse*, April 1923

This work is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity from Georges Matisse.

The subject of this work on paper is Henriette Darricarrère, one of Henri Matisse's most significant models. Henriette was a 19-year-old ballerina and musician when Matisse discovered her working as a film extra at the Victorine Studios in Nice in 1920. Impressed by her poise and artistic background, Matisse invited her to model – a role in which she quickly became “part of the family” (his wife Amélie grew fond of her). He even gave Henriette painting lessons during their time together, effectively mentoring her as an artist while she posed for him.

Henriette Darricarrère is perhaps best known as the face and figure of Matisse's celebrated “Odalisque” paintings of the 1920s, however, Matisse also depicted his muse in numerous more natural and intimate poses. In *Henriette lisant*, she is shown absorbed in a book, without any elaborate costume or background. Works like this highlight Henriette's “quiet side” and Matisse's sensitivity in portraying it.

Matisse himself noted that drawing allowed him “to consider simultaneously the character of the model, the human expression, the quality of surrounding light, atmosphere and all that can only be expressed by drawing” (artist quoted in J. Elderfield, *The Drawings of Henri Matisse*, London, 1984, p. 84).

This original painting by [Henri Matisse](#) is available for sale.