

Nina Hamnett



Portrait of a lady

Reference: 10815

Dimensions:

Height: 25.40 cm / 10 in

Width: 25.70 cm / 10¹/₈ in

Signed, inscribed and dated l.r.: Nina Hamnett/Oct 1924/Paris, pencil, partial watermark ENGLAND

25.4 x 25.7 cm.; 10 x 10 1/8 inches

KAREN TAYLOR

FINE ART

Provenance

By family descent until 2024

This may be a portrait of Mary Torr, painted in oils by Hamnett in 1924.

The daughter of an army officer, Hamnett was born in Wales and had a peripatetic childhood, showing early talent for drawing and painting. In 1911 she set up a studio in Grafton Street in Fitzrovia. Throughout her early career she worked at the Omega Workshops and was well known on the London art scene. Hamnett moved to Paris in 1913 and lived in Montparnasse. She attended Marie Wassilieff's academy where she had lessons with Fernand Leger, worked as an artist's model and met Amedeo Modigliani, Chaim Soutine, and Gertrude Stein.

She was at the heart of the Anglo-French exchange of artistic ideas at this period and came and went between Paris and London. Hamnett was back in France in 1920 enjoying the Bohemian life of the French capital with other artists and seeking out the avant-garde.

One of Hamnett's first solo exhibitions was held at the Eldar Gallery, London in 1918 and consisted mainly of portraits of figures she had met in Paris.

Hamnett, dubbed the 'Queen of Bohemia' is now recognised as a leading proponent of British Modernism and a retrospective of her work, including many drawings, was held at Charleston in 2021.

The grandmother of the previous owner and her husband used to frequent the Fitzroy Tavern and drink with the artists and intellectuals who were regulars there.