

Gwen John



A seated tortoiseshell cat (probably Edgar Quinet)

Reference: 10818

KAREN TAYLOR

FINE ART

Dimensions:

Height: 16.20 cm / 6³/₈ in

Width: 12.90 cm / 5¹/₈ in

Stamped with estate stamp l.l., watercolour and pencil on tan paper, numbered verso in pencil: 67 (twice)

16.2 x 12.9 cm.; 6 3/8 x 5 1/8 inches

Provenance

The Estate of the artist, by descent

In February 1904 Gwen John and Dorelia McNeill left Toulouse for Paris where they took a room in the Hôtel de Mont Blanc at 19 Boulevard Edgar Quinet in the 14th arrondissement. They acquired a female tortoiseshell cat with a white breast which Gwen John named after the street and drew frequently, and which would appear to be the subject of the present drawing which dates from around 1905-1908.

Gwen John had many cats throughout her life, and when Edgar Quinet disappeared in 1908 she wrote a poem in her memory entitled Au Chat which she sent to Rodin. Her remarkable cat drawings capture the personality of the animals and are understandably acclaimed.