

Half-clothed woman seated on floor, 1917

Horace Brodsky

Sold



Description

HORACE BRODSKY (1885-1969) :
Half-clothed woman seated on floor

Signed in black ink lower right., 'H. Brodzky '17'
Pen in ink on watermarked paper

Inscribed verso in pencil with dealer's markings; top edge, '1542', '56' (crossed out), '8a'; lower edge, '3304'

Condition: small tear u.l. (detached from corner); three small pin holes, losses to edges of sheet.

Sheet size 28.0 cm (11 in) x 21.7 cm (8 ½ in)
In a gilded frame
Framed height 41 cm (16 ¼ in) x width 36 cm (14 ¼ in)

RELATED TO:

Horace Brodzky Seated Nude 1917, Etching. British Museum Collection of Drawings and Prints. 1967 reprint made by London Graphic Arts in an edition of 30. Listed as Cat.no. 134 in "Horace Brodzky 1885-1969" a retrospective exhibition catalogue by Frances Spalding, London, Boundary Gallery, 10 October - 15 November 1989

EXHIBITION HISTORY : Horace Brodzky 1885-1969, Michael Parkin Fine Art Ltd, 11 Motcomb Street, London, SW1 X8LB, 26 June - 20 July 1974, Cat. No. 58 of 95 works

Because of the date on the drawing it was possibly exhibited in Horace Brodzky. Exhibition of paintings, drawings, etchings, etc, The Penguin, 8 East 15th Street, New York, 18 April - ? 1918, perhaps Cat. No 60-64, each titled Pen Drawing No 1 -5. The exhibition was reviewed in Sun, 12 August 1918 and New York Times, 14 April 1918.

This work is probably related to 31, Nude, ink, 1917 that is listed in the Exhibition leaflet of the exhibition Horace Brodzky organised in February of 1966 by the Mercury Gallery, celebrating Brodzky's 81st birthday.

Half-clothed woman seated on floor

A unique drawing, this work is typical of Brodzky's early nudes with its economy in the use of the line and the seemingly relaxed, informal pose of the model. The spontaneous feel of many of Brodzky's drawings does in now way indicate that works such as the present drawing are purely sketches or studies. In fact Brodzky was known to make perhaps twenty or thirty drawings at a sitting and of those he preserved perhaps only a handful, only those who 'pass his rigorous censorship [... those that] sum up qualities resulting from the perfect collaboration of hand and eye and sensibility' (p. 15, Forty Drawings by Horace Brodzky 1935 by James Laver, Keeper of the Department of Engraving, Illustration and Design, V&A Museum).

Laver also wrote that 'Brodzky preferred a pose that showed the body from an unexpected angle, daringly foreshortened or with the weight of the various parts freed from the monotony of the standing pose. He liked to see his models from above, the limbs relaxed, and [...] he made many of this drawings from a step-ladder drawn up close to the platform on which the model is lying'. This preference is well illustrated here

where the model is sitting a fairly relaxed, if posed, position with her legs crossed in a slight contraposto.

HORACE BRODZKY (1885-1969)

Horace Brodzky was born in Melbourne, Australia, in 1885 but he spent most of his active life in London where he lived from 1923 until his death in 1969. He was the only son of a journalist on the Melbourne Herald who also taught Hebrew. Brodzky studied br...