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**Lotte Laserstein (Preussisch Holland,  
Germany 1898-1993 Kalmar, Sweden)**

*Head Study of Traute Rose*

Signed (upper right): 'Lotte Laserstein'

Oil on paper

12 ½ x 15 ¾ in. (31.8 x 40 cm.)

Executed in 1935



## **Provenance**

The artist; her estate to Agnew's where acquired by the below,  
Private collection, UK.

## **Exhibited**

Agnews, London, *Lotte Laserstein 1898-1993. An exhibition celebrating the life of Lotte Laserstein including works by related artists, 29 September - 20 October 1993.*

Born in Germany, Lotte Laserstein was a Berlin-based painter, whose work bears some resemblance to the *Neue Sachlichkeit* (New Objectivity) movement, but is best described as Naturalist, a specific German style originating in the middle of the 19th century. As an independently minded woman of Jewish descent in a male-dominated art world, she failed to comply with conventional norms on a number of counts. It is therefore particularly remarkable that she was one of the first women to be admitted to the Berlin Academy of Art in 1921 going on to win the Academy's gold medal in 1925. Her preoccupation with the portrayal of people had emerged very early in her career and the teaching of Erich Wolfsfeld (1885-1956) at the Berlin Academy of Art served to strengthen it.

In 1925 she was to meet Traute Rose, who would be her close friend and favourite model. Until the spring of 1934 her work was included in exhibitions held throughout Germany. However, forced to flee Germany in 1937 to escape Nazi persecution, she settled in Sweden, where she remained for the rest of her life. Like many other emigre artists of her generation, she never succeeded in regaining the international recognition she had once enjoyed in Berlin in the 1930s. Executed in 1935, the technical virtuosity of the work shows Laserstein at the height of her creative powers, when she had perfected the medium and complexities of working with large-format oils on paper.

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