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Karl Mediz (Vienna 1868-1945 Dresden)

Portrait of a woman

Pencil and white chalk

21 1/2 x 14 1/2 in. (54.6 x 37.1 cm.)



Provenance

Private collection, Austria, until 2022.

Austrian landscape and portrait painter Karl Mediz studied art at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Vienna and at the Académie Julian in Paris, and painted in a style derived from both Symbolism and Art Nouveau. He was often in the artist colony in Dachau near Munich and Knokke, where he met Emilie Pelikan. They married and moved to Vienna, where they found only little recognition of their work as artists. Only a small circle of connoisseurs, among them art critics or fellow painters like Uhde, Lehmden, Hörmann and Hervesi supported them. In 1894 the couple moved to Dresden, where there was a more progressive climate for art. In Germany, Karl Mediz soon gained some success as a portraitist and together with his wife, who also worked as a painter, they lead a successful life as artists around 1900. In 1902 he exhibited in Vienna and participated in group exhibitions of the Hagenbund. After the early death of his wife in 1908, Karl Mediz painted less and less and turned towards graphical arts. He continued to live in Dresden until his death just before the bombing of the city. His estate soon passed into the hands of the new East German Communist régime and his works were forgotten until 1986, when an exhibition of his and Emilie's paintings was held at the Oberösterreichische Landesmuseen in Linz. His symbolist landscapes are influenced by the works of Ferdinand Hodler und Giovanni Segantini.

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