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EST. 1817

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Gerardus Petrus (Ger) Langeweg (Oudemolen
(Moerdijk) 1891-1970 Amsterdam)

Portrait of a gentleman

Signed (lower right): 'GLangeweg'

Oil on canvas

25 x 23 ½ in. (63 x 60 cm.)



Gerardus Petrus (Ger) Langeweg was born on the 26th December 1891 in Oudemolen (Moerdijk) and died on the 18th October 1970 in Amsterdam. He lived and worked in Ghent and Bruges until 1934, and after that in Amsterdam. He studied Engraving at the Akademie in Ghent (1928-1929), taught by C. de Cock. At first, he painted still-lives and landscapes, and later he worked in watercolours and drew in a naive-realistic style.

Although he was destined to become a teacher Langeweg chose to be an artist. At first he worked as a house painter, and after that in Amsterdam as a commercial designer. He only dedicated himself to being a free artist at the end of the 1920s. After his education in Bruges and Ghent he was influenced by the realists Raoul Hynckes and Wim Schumacher from 1930 on, and came into contact with James Ensor. After that the unrealistic element in his work increased. He is considered one of the few Dutch Surrealists. His subject matter ranges from figure paintings, nudes, still-lives, landscapes and fantasy figures in a Magic Realist style. His work can be found in the Gemeente Amstelveen, the Museum Van Bommel Van Dam Venlo, the Nederlandse Rijkscollectie, the Hague and elsewhere.

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On the label of the present painting is written 'Tentoonstelling ,Amstel' Amstelveen Titel 'Hypoliet Congo Neger' Brugge'. Amstelveen is next to Amsterdam, where the painter had several exhibitions, including one at the Stedelijk Museum. Hypoliet Congo Neger must be the name of the sitter Hypoliet (a Belgian name) and the location Congo (now Zaire, a former Belgian colon). Brugge (Bruges) presumably refers to the place where Langeweg painted the picture. According the RKD he worked there in 1933.