

Large double-sided sketch by Duncan Grant

£12,500



REF: 6189

Height: 52.5 cm (20.7")

Width: 37.5 cm (14.8")

Description

An important double-sided preparatory sketch for one of the most iconic portraits of Vanessa Bell by Duncan Grant (1885-1978), circa 1915. The first drawing is related to the series of three paintings Grant made of Vanessa Bell in an evening dress made of red paisley fabric around 1916. Two of these paintings are now in public collections; the National Portrait Gallery, London and the artists' home at Charleston. The reverse is a nude also believed to be of Vanessa Bell.

The piece was purchased from a private collector and originally acquired from the artists estate in 1977 by a New York Gallery.

Duncan Grant was a central member of the Bloomsbury Group, closely associated with seminal figures in early 20th century British culture such as Virginia Woolf, Vanessa Bell, E.M. Forster and Lytton Strachey, alongside the art critic Roger Fry, the latter having a particularly strong impact on Grant's artistic approach. Grant's works can be found in a wide number of collections throughout the country, including the Tate Britain and the V&A in London, the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh. It was exhibited by Davis & Langdale Company in 1997. They have historically had a special interest in the work of Modern British artists, holding the first solo exhibitions in the USA of Gwen John in 1965, Duncan Grant in 1975 and Vanessa Bell in 1980.