

Kees van Dongen

1877–1968 | Dutch-French



Devant le Restaurant de la Paix

M.S. Rau
FINE ART • ANTIQUES • JEWELS

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Oil on canvas | Circa 1920

Signed "Van Dongen" (lower right)

Canvas: 21 1/4" high x 25 5/8" wide | 53.98 cm x 65.09 cm

Frame: 29 1/4" high x 33 1/2" wide x 2" deep

74.30 cm x 85.09 cm x 5.08 cm

van Dongen.

“

*Painting is the most
beautiful of lies.*

- Kees van Dongen

”



This dazzling work of art by Kees van Dongen depicts a bustling scene of fashionable Parisian society in the iconic Place d'Opéra. Painted at the height of his popularity in Paris in the 1920s, *Devant le Restaurant de la Paix* showcases one of the artist's favorite subjects using his distinct avant-garde compositional techniques and vibrant color palette.

While many of van Dongen's earlier works captured the cast of players in his bohemian lifestyle, the artist changed course at the onset of World War I. In 1918, the artist began a relationship with the fashion director Léa Alvin who introduced him to Parisian fashion circles and elite socialites. *Devant le Restaurant de la Paix* captures this pivotal moment in van Dongen's career, when he is exploring and reveling in his newfound place among the upper crust of Parisian society. This work is a vibrant celebration of the boisterous fashion and nightlife of the Place d'Opéra during the *Années folles*, while at the same time staying true to van Dongen's avant-garde and Fauvist influences. Painted in a kaleidoscope of jewel tones, van Dongen captures many of his figures from behind, choosing to identify them through daring swathes of unblended color. Painted with expressionist fervor, this work perfectly displays van Dongen's well-known zest for the exuberance of the 1920s, once exclaiming: "I passionately love the life of my time, so animated, so feverish! Ah! Life is even more beautiful than painting."

Van Dongen received his early artistic training at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Rotterdam and later moved to Paris in the early 1900. After settling in the Montmartre district, then the artistic hub of the city, van Dongen found himself immersed in an environment that stimulated his creativity and inspired him to begin exhibiting his paintings. Even in his earliest shows, his works were showcased alongside the artistic masters of the day. At the 1905 *Salon d'Automne*, van Dongen's paintings were hung in the same gallery as the highly esteemed artist Henri Matisse, a deep honor for the younger van Dongen. Importantly,

it was from this pivotal showing that Fauvism — the "wild beasts" of the early 1900s — was born. Matisse had pioneered the Fauvist technique, exemplified by expressive colors and intense brushwork. Van Dongen's early paintings bore the hallmarks of this explosive expression, ushering him into the circle of the leading avant-garde painters of the day.

An artist whose career was defined by coloristic expression and unyielding originality, Kees van Dongen and his unique style grabbed the attention of early 20th-century art connoisseurs, ranking him among the leading Modernists of the era. Above all, van Dongen was dedicated to the subject of the modern urban woman, and they remained central to his output throughout his career. While he painted everyone from celebrities—such as Josephine Baker and Brigitte Bardot—to dancers, singers, and prostitutes in Paris' infamous brothels, his portraits of society ladies remain among his most important. Today, van Dongen's artworks grace museum collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Art Institute of Chicago and the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, among others. ●



PROVENANCE

Galerie Hopkins, Paris

Private collection, California

MK Fine Art, New York

Private collection, Connecticut

LITERATURE

To be included in the forthcoming Kees van Dongen catalogue raisonné published by the Wildenstein Plattner Institute



LETTER OF AUTHENTICITY

CATALOGUE RAISONNÉ DE L'ŒUVRE DE KEES VAN DONGEN

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Avis délivré gratuitement
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Nous vous informons, qu'après étude, et en l'état actuel de nos connaissances, nous avons l'intention, à ce jour, d'inclure l'oeuvre reproduite ci-dessous dans le catalogue raisonné de l'oeuvre de Kees Van Dongen.

Devant Le restaurant de la Paix
Huile sur toile
H. 0,540 x L. 0,650 m
Signée en bas à droite: van Dongen.

Fait à Paris le 21 septembre 2011
Jacques Chaloin des Cordes



(1) Le présent avis, qui est rendu à l'issue de l'étude quant à notre intention d'inclure ou de ne pas inclure cet objet dans le catalogue concerné, n'a pas à être motivé et ne peut en aucun cas donner lieu à une quelconque réclamation. Cet avis n'est en aucun cas une appréciation portant notamment sur l'authenticité, l'attribution, la propriété ou l'état de l'objet.




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Important: Please keep this announcement of intention. No duplicate will be issued.

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published by the Wildenstein Plattner Institute






AUCTION COMPARABLES

	<p style="text-align: right;">¹</p> <p>Kees van Dongen</p> <p>Title Jeune Arabe</p> <p>Description Painted in 1910-11.Signed van Dongen (bottom center); indistinctly inscribed</p> <p>Medium oil on canvas</p> <p>Year of Work 1910-1911</p> <p>Size Height 40.2 in.; Width 25.8 in. / Height 102 cm.; Width 65.5 cm.</p> <p>Misc. Signed, Inscribed</p> <p>Sale of Sotheby's New York: Wednesday, November 4, 2009 [Lot 00007] Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale</p> <p>Estimate 7,000,000 - 10,000,000 USD</p> <p>Sold For 13,802,500 USD Premium</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;">²</p> <p>Kees van Dongen</p> <p>Title La Quiétude</p> <p>Description MASTERPIECES FROM THE COLLECTION OF SAM JOSEFOWITZ: A LIFETIME OF DISCOVERY AND SCHOLARSHI</p> <p>Medium oil on canvas</p> <p>Year of Work 1918</p> <p>Size Height 45.3 in.; Width 57.5 in. / Height 115 cm.; Width 146 cm.</p> <p>Misc. Signed</p> <p>Sale of Christie's London: Friday, October 13, 2023 [Lot 00009] Masterpieces from the Collection of Sam Josefowitz: A Lifetime of Discovery and Scholarship</p> <p>Estimate 3,000,000 - 5,000,000 GBP (3,640,776 - 6,067,961 USD)</p> <p>Sold For 10,775,000 GBP Premium (13,076,456 USD)</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;">¹⁵</p> <p>Kees van Dongen</p> <p>Title Le Moulin de la Galette</p> <p>Description KEES VAN DONGEN (1877-1968)Le Moulin de la Galette signed 'Van Dongen' (en bas)</p> <p>Medium oil on canvas</p> <p>Year of Work 1904-1906</p> <p>Size Height 21.3 in.; Width 25.6 in. / Height 54 cm.; Width 65 cm.</p> <p>Misc. Signed</p> <p>Sale of Christie's Paris: Wednesday, May 21, 2008 [Lot 00053] Art Impressionniste et Moderne</p> <p>Estimate 700,000 - 1,000,000 EUR (1,095,290 - 1,564,700 USD)</p> <p>Sold For 2,776,250 EUR Premium (4,343,999 USD)</p>



AUCTION COMPARABLES

	18	<p>Kees van Dongen</p>
	Title	La cuirasse d'or
	Description	Kees van Dongen (1877-1968)La cuirasse d'orsigned 'van Dongen.' (lower right)o
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	Circa 1907
	Size	Height 51.3 in.; Width 51.6 in. / Height 130.4 cm.; Width 131.1 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Christie's London: Wednesday, February 4, 2009 [Lot 00005] Impressionist/Modern Art, Evening Sale
	Estimate	1,500,000 - 2,500,000 GBP (2,164,502 - 3,607,503 USD)
	Sold For	2,897,250 GBP Premium (4,180,736 USD)
	24	<p>Kees van Dongen</p>
	Title	La Célèbre Fatima et sa troupe 《知名舞者法蒂瑪和她的樂隊》
	Description	Property from an Important New York Private CollectionKees van Dongen1877 - 1968
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	Circa 1912
	Size	Height 39.4 in.; Width 32 in. / Height 100.2 cm.; Width 81.2 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Sotheby's New York: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 [Lot 00019] Modern Evening Auction
	Estimate	4,000,000 - 6,000,000 USD
	Sold For	3,650,000 USD Premium
	28	<p>Kees van Dongen</p>
	Title	Anita - La belle Fatima et sa troupe
	Medium	Oil on canvas
	Year of Work	Circa 1905-1907
	Size	Height 39.4 in.; Width 31.9 in. / Height 100 cm.; Width 81 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Sotheby's New York: Thursday, November 4, 2004 [Lot 00020] Impressionist and Modern Art (Evening)
	Estimate	2,000,000 - 3,000,000 USD
	Sold For	3,368,000 USD Premium



Kees van Dongen | *Modjesko, Soprano Singer*

1908

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 39^{3/8} x 32 inches | 100 x 81.3 cm



MoMA

Museum of Modern Art
New York, United States



Kees van Dongen | *Woman Against White Background*

1910 - 1914

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 50^{5/8} x 31 inches | 128.6 x 78.8 cm



Art Institute of Chicago
Chicago, IL, United States

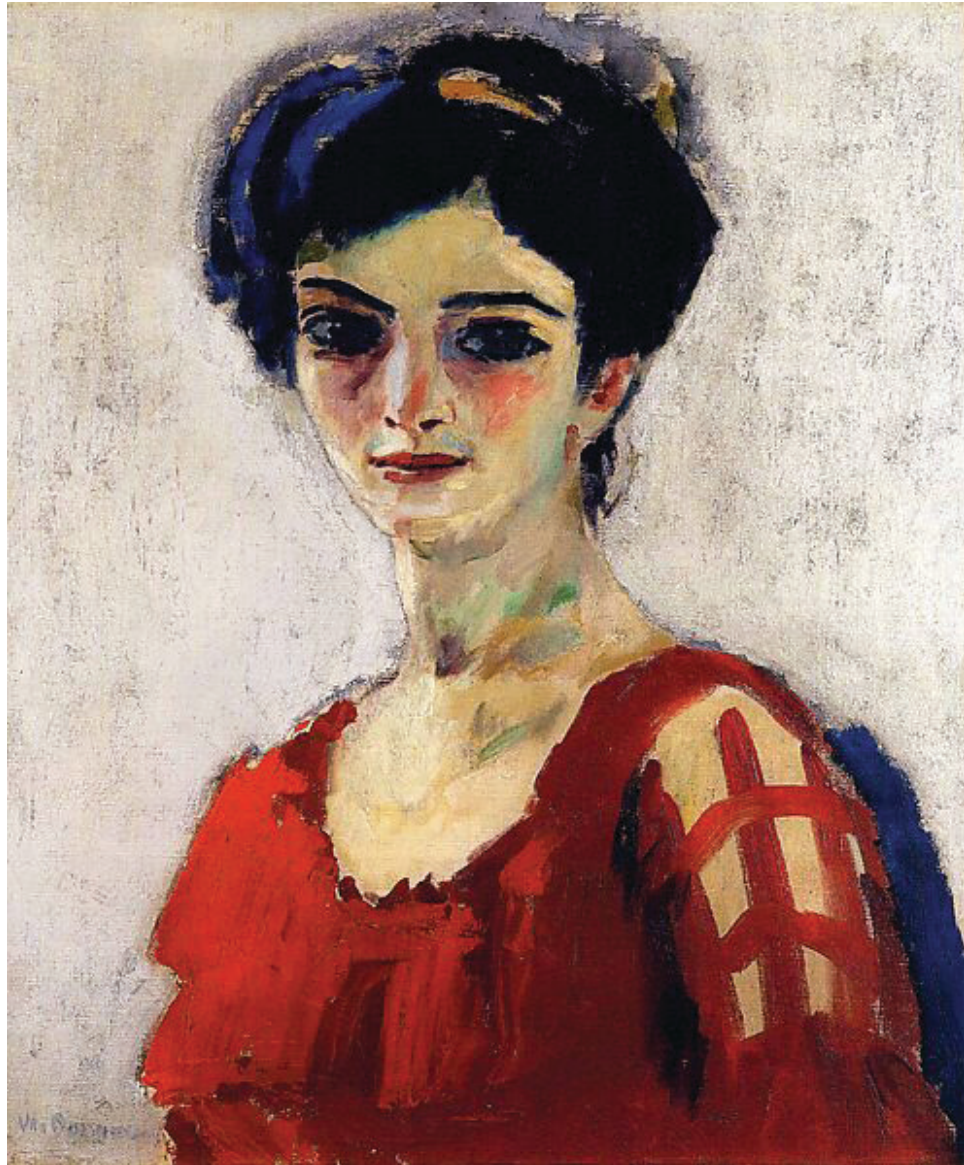


Kees van Dongen | *Maria*

1907 - 1910

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 25^{1/2} x 21^{3/8} inches | 64.8 x 54.3 cm



**THE
MET**

Metropolitan Museum of Art
New York, United States



Kees van Dongen | *Avenue du Bois*

c. 1925

Medium: Oil on machine-primed canvas

Dimensions: 31^{7/8} x 39^{1/2} inches | 81 x 100.33 cm



**THE
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Metropolitan Museum of Art
New York, United States



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