

PAN

AMSTERDAM

BOB SCHOLTE FINE ART



Portrait of Guus van Dongen

Chalk and pencil on paper
34 × 38 cm

Signed and annotated lower right 'Madame v. Dongen'
1929

Provenance:

Kuitenbrouwer-van Rees Collection, family of the artist;
Private collection of Rob van Vuure, 2016.

In this atmospheric portrait, Otto van Rees (1884–1957) depicts Juliana Augusta Preitlinger (Guus) van Dongen (1878–1946), the first wife of Kees van Dongen. Rendered in soft, rhythmic lines and a subtle, nuanced palette, the artist captures her with remarkable sensitivity. Her averted gaze and restrained body language suggest a moment of quiet introspection, lending the portrait a profound psychological depth.

The colour palette is both balanced and purposeful. Touches of ochre yellow, blue and reddish brown animate her face, hair and clothing, while creating a subtle tension between form and surface. The background is left largely undefined,

directing the viewer's attention entirely to the sitter's expression and posture. The result is a restrained yet distinctly modern portrait, characteristic of Van Rees's Parisian period, when he navigated between Expressionism and his own personal interpretation of Cubism.