

COLNAGHI ELLIOTT

MASTER DRAWINGS

Françoise Gilot
(Neuilly-sur-Seine 1921 – 2023 New York)

Portrait of Cécile Miguel

Signed lower right : *F. Gilot*
Crayon on paper
37.5 x 23.5 cm. (14 ¾ x 9 1.4 in.)

Provenance:
Private Collection, Paris:
Claude Aguttes, Paris, 27 June 2011, lot 12;
Galerie AB, Brussels;
Private Collection, Brussels;
Vanderkindere, Brussels, 19 March 2024, lot 205.



Françoise Gilot's portrait of the Belgian artist and writer Cécile Miguel dates to the early 1950s.

Miguel, who received the Prix de la Jeune Peinture Française in 1950, sat for Gilot on other occasions. Two other graphic portraits of her by Gilot have appeared on the market in recent years, both dated 1951.¹ In those, as in the present work, Miguel is recognisable by the two bands of hair which fall either side of her shoulders.

Fascinatingly, Gilot has drawn her portrait of Miguel on a Mourlot lithographic sheet. The Atelier Mourlot produced lithographs for Picasso, Braque, Miró, Chagall, Matisse and, from 1950, for Gilot herself, who became the first woman to make lithographs there. One can imagine her picking up a few spare sheets on a visit to the atelier, to be used later for her pencil and crayon portraits, including the present work.

¹ Sotheby's, New York, 14 December 2020, lot 90 and Sotheby's, New York, 29 June 2021, lot 126