

# COLNAGHI ELLIOTT

MASTER DRAWINGS

Henriette Daux  
(Paris 1864 – 1953 Vanves)

*Young girl with headscarf*, ca. 1885

Signed lower left: *H DAUX.*  
Pastel on paper  
64.5 x 44.5 cm. (25 ¾ x 17 ½ in.)

Provenance:  
Private Collection, Paris, until 2023.



Born to a relatively affluent Parisian family, Henriette Daux (fig. 1) studied at the Académie Julian in the mid 1880s under Jules Lefebvre and Alfred Roll. She would go on to marry the latter in 1905 and appears as a model in many of his paintings. Clearly a talented artist from a technical standpoint, Daux specialised in pastel portraits and regularly exhibited in the late 1880s and 1890s, primarily at the Salon des artistes français but also at the Salon du Champ-de-Mars. Daux also had success as a writer, publishing short stories with the publisher Maison Quantain.



Fig. 1, William Benque, Henriette Daux, 1896, photograph

Beyond its obvious quality and the strength of the image, this head study of a young girl in an orange headscarf is of interest because of its connection to the Académie Julian and its insight into the life class at this famous and pioneering school. As extant works and turn of the century photographs of the ateliers of the Académie Julian confirm (fig. 2), bust-length head studies were a mainstay of the educational program at the school (fig. 3) and it is reasonable to assume therefore that, though undated, Daux's refined and delicate pastel dates to her time at the Académie in the late 1880s.



Fig. 2, Photograph from circa 1892 depicting a life class at the Académie Julian, with a series of bust-length head studies on the walls behind

Founded in 1868, the Académie Julian was a private art school which offered a program and level of teaching comparable to those of the École des Beaux-Arts. Unlike the École, which excluded women until 1897, the Académie Julian gave women artists the same opportunities as men, notably in giving them access to the life class and the chance to depict the nude. In fact, the Académie was the pre-eminent art school for women on an international level, achieving a reputation for excellence in academic figure studies, attracting students from across the western hemisphere.



Fig. 3, Marie-Thérèse Duchâteau, *Head study of an Amerindian Girl*, 1892, pastel on paper, 27.4 x 35.6 cm, Gillis Goldman Fine Art