

Henri Matisse, Künstler/-in (*31.12.1869 Le Cateau-Cambrésis, +3.11.1954 Nizza)



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Title	Grand nu accroupi (Olga)
Also known as	Sitzender Akt (Olga) Seated Nude (Olga) Femme assise [historisch] Nu assis [historisch] Sitzender Mädchenakt [historisch]
Date	1909/10
Medium	Bronze
Dimensions	object: 43 x 24.5 x 33 cm
Signature	inscr. on the back left on the plinth: HM; further: 2/10; stamp on the back left on the plinth: Cire - G. Valsuani - perdue
Inscription	-
Catalogue raisonné	Duthuit/de Guébriant 1997 134.49
Edition / number	2/10
Edition	-
Inv. No.	1968/0055
Credit line	Kunsthau Zürich, Werner and Nelly Bär Collection, 1968
Accession year	1968

Object type	sculpture
Classification	D 1[2] art 20th century worldwide

Description

With 'Seated Nude (Olga)' from 1909/10, we reencounter the same sitting position and bent-knee pose seen in the picture published in 'L'Étude académique'. This work is much larger than the earlier bronzes based on this pose. In contrast to the model in the photograph, the sculpture holds its head upright. For this figure, Matisse also worked with a woman as a model – namely, the Russian Olga Meerson, who was his student at the time. Despite this, the sculpture is not intended as a portrait but rather expresses the artist's search for a formal approach within the medium of sculpture.

Particularly drastic elements of this artistic approach are the cut-off tip of the nose and the hollowed-out eyes. With this figure, Matisse's first phase of sculptural variation reached its zenith and came to a conclusion.

Provenance	<p>Henri Matisse [*1869 Le Cateau-Cambrésis, +1954 Nizza] (Künstler/-in) 1926 – o.D., Alfred Flechtheim [*1878 Münster, +1937 London] (Sammler/-in), Düsseldorf 5.1929, Galerie Pierre (Galerie), Paris [Verbleib unbekannt?] 1930, Daniel Tzanck [*1874 Tbilisi, +1964 Paris] (Sammler/-in), Paris [Verbleib unbekannt?] Alfred Meyer-Braam [*1901 Bremgarten, +1967 Bremgarten] (Sammler/-in), Paris/Zürich 1948 – 1960, Werner und Nelly Bär (Sammler/-in), Zürich, Kauf 1960 – 1968, Nelly Bär [*1910, +1975 Castiglione della Pescaia] (Sammler/-in), Erbe ab 1968, Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft Kunsthaus Zürich (Museum), Zürich, Geschenk</p>
Provenance category	<p>C – The provenance from 1933 to 1945 has not been conclusively clarified; gaps in the ownership history remain. According to current research, there is no evidence of Nazi-looted art. There are, however, implications of Nazi-looted art and / or conspicuous circumstances.</p>
About the provenance	<p>[State of research 30.06.2023]</p>
Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kunsthaus Zürich. Gesamtkatalog der Gemälde und Skulpturen, hrsg. von Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft et al., Sammlungskatalog, Ostfildern: Hatje Cantz, 2007, S. 599.- Wanda de Guébriant/Claude Duthuit: Henri Matisse. Catalogue raisonné de l'oeuvre sculpté, Paris, 1997, No. 49/2.- Kathrin Wappenschmidt: Henri Matisse. Sein plastisches Werk, Kiel, 1991, zugleich Dissertation Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, Kiel, 1991, No. 49/2.- Matisse und die Fauves, hrsg. von Heinz Widauer, Ausst.-Kat. Albertina, Wien, 2013, S. 202.- Mario Luzi/Massimo Carrà: L'opera di Matisse dalla rivolta «fauve» all'intimismo 1904-1928 (Classici dell'Arte 49), Mailand: Rizzoli Editore, 1971, No. S 7.