

Old Masters, Nineteenth Century & Early Modern Art

12, 13 & 14 November 2024





Kees van Dongen (Dutch/French, 1877-1968)**'Souvenir de Dordrecht'**

oil on canvas, 65x54 cm

€50,000 - €80,000

Exhibited:

- Paris, Galerie Kahnweiler, 'Exposition d'oeuvres de Kees van Dongen', 2-28 March 1908, no. 23.
- Berlin, art dealer Paul Cassirer, 'Kees van Dongen', June-July 1919, no. 5 (listed in the Cassirer archives as no. 17060, referring to no. 54 from Kahnweiler).
- Hamburg, Galerie Commeter, 'Kees van Dongen', August 1919.
- Düsseldorf, Galerie Alfred Flechtheim, 'Kees van Dongen', 5-18 October 1919, no. 3.
- The Hague, Kunsthandel Walrecht, 'Kees van Dongen', July 1919.
- Hannover, Kestner-Gesellschaft e.v., '48. Sonderausstellung Meisterwerke Deutscher Kunst aus Hannoverschem Privatbesitz; Kees van Dongen', H.F. Bieling, Gerlwh, 5 February-1 March 1922, no. 37, this exhibition subsequently travelled to the Hansa-Werkstätten, Hamburg, and possibly to Bremen.
- Paris, Galerie de Berri, 'Van Dongen', April 1939.
- Paris, Galerie de Berri, 'Van Dongen, époque fauve', 15 October-15 November 1953 (no catalogue known, but mentioned in a letter by the artist to Joop Siedenburg dated 30 October 1953)
- Paris, Musée National d'Art Moderne (13 October-26 November 1967)/Rotterdam, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen (8 December 1967-28 January 1968), 'Van Dongen', no. 8, where dated 1903.
- Marseille, Musée Cantini, 'Hommage à Van Dongen', June-September 1969, no. 6, where dated 1903 (label attached to the reverse).
- Laren, Singer Laren, 'Kees Van Dongen. De weg naar succes', 2023, no. 57, ill. p. 108.

Literature:

- A.B. Loosjes-Terpstra, 'Moderne Kunst in Nederland 1900-1914; Utrecht 1987 (1959), pp. 28-29, ill. no. 29, where erroneously dated 1906.
- L. Chaumeil, 'Van Dongen. L'homme et l'artiste - La vie et l'oeuvre', Geneva 1967, ill. p. 316, no. 20, where dated 'vers 1900 (?)'.
- A. Hopmans, 'De grote ogen van Kees van Dongen', Rotterdam 2010, ill. p. 30.
- Jim van der Meer Mohr, 'Het Nederlandse stads- en dorpsgezicht 1550-2000', Zwolle 2024, illustrated on the cover and on p. 73.

Provenance:

- With Galerie Kahnweiler, Paris, 1907.
- Auction, Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 31 January 1938, lot 143.
- Collection John van der Klip, France (acquired at the above sale).
- With Galerie de Berri (Mr. and Mrs. John van der Klip), Paris, 1939 or earlier (listed in newspaper clipping, ca. 1938-1939).
- With Galerie de Berri (Mrs. John van der Klip), Paris, 1966.
- Heirs of Mrs. John van der Klip; Their auction, Hôtel Drouot (Etienne Ader, Antoine Ader, Jean-Louis Picard and Jacques Tajan), Paris, 30 April 1975, lot 76.
- Collection Bertus and Bertha Meijer, Wassenaar, inv. no. 310 (label attached to the reverse), thence by descent to the present owners.

A drawing of the same subject, possibly used for this painting, is in Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam.

Anita Hopmans has kindly confirmed the authenticity on the basis of first-hand inspection of the original in 2020, and supplied part of the research of this painting.

This work will be included in the forthcoming Kees van Dongen digital 'Catalogue Raisonné', currently being prepared under the sponsorship of the Wildenstein Plattner Institute, Inc.

The Dordrechts Museum has requested the loan of this painting for their upcoming exhibition 'Schilderachtig Dordrecht' (16 February-1 June 2025).

It's a celebration; the flag flutters with the orange pennant on the tower of the Grote kerk of Dordrecht. This probably dates the painting to August 31, 1907, Queen Wilhelmina's birthday. Van Dongen had been living in Paris for some time but was in the Netherlands from mid-January to early September 1907. He painted several cityscapes in Amsterdam and Delfshaven (where he was born), including this radiant work in Dordrecht. He may have made it on his way back to Paris, which could explain the fitting title, Souvenir de Dordrecht.

Van Dongen is an exponent of the art movement known as Fauvism. This style is best characterised by vivid colours and swift lines. This view of the Grote kerk of Dordrecht, along with the one of Delfshaven, are the only two Fauvist cityscapes that Van Dongen created in the Netherlands. It was purchased by art dealer Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler, who had opened his gallery in Paris in the spring of 1907. In 1907-1908, Van Dongen painted a fine portrait of Kahnweiler, which now hangs in the Musée du Petit Palais in Geneva.

Source:

Jim van der Meer Mohr 2024, p. 73.