



Miss Maud Gonne

Date

1898

Primary Maker

Sarah Henrietta Purser

Medium

Pastel on paper

Dimensions

43 x 27 cm

Description

Maud Gonne fractured her arm in June 1898 and began her convalescence while staying with Sarah Purser. This pastel conveys the compelling beauty and strong character of Maud Gonne more so than the large oil painting. Purser's facility with pastel is clear and this work has a sense of freshness and spontaneity. No doubt inspired by the pastel sketches of Degas, whom Purser met in Paris, there is an exploratory and searching quality about this work. The strong mouth and firm jaw line

indicate a sense of determination which contrasts with the more sketchy treatment of her hair and headdress. One senses the true beauty of Maud Gonne that so captivated W B Yeats. Until 1974 this work was on a single sheet of paper with another drawing (reg no. 927.01) a preparatory work in creating the pastel.