

SA1124028

**Nuns and Doves, the Family,
1939: avant-garde woman
artist Yo Mayer, Marcel
Duchamp's daughter oil on
canvas**

Price

GBP 1,800

| USD \$2,437 | EUR 2,106

Item Reference: SA1124028

Date of manufacture: 1930

Dimensions

Height = 60 cm (23.6")

Width = 80 cm (31.5")

Depth = 1 cm (0.4")

Description

In 1910, having separated from her first husband, the artist model Jeanne Chastagnier Serré had a relationship with the surrealist Marcel Duchamp: you know, the one of the porcelain urinal fame. Young Yvonne, nicknamed Yo, was born nine months later, in 1911. Her mother Jeanne told Duchamp neither about her pregnancy nor the birth: she only mentioned his paternity to him in passing, when one day she ran into him by chance eight years later. And she asked nothing of him. Jeanne remarried a Monsieur Mayer, who adopted little Yo. Duchamp was clearly not at all interested in a domestic life, but it is believed that he kept an eye on young Yo's development. It was Yo's mother however who encouraged Yo to become an artist. Yo studied at the Academie de la Grande Chaumière, and subsequently with William van Hasselt and the cubist André Lhote. In the present work, dating from 1939, Lhote's influence can be lightly felt in the use of primary colours and very pure lines. I do not know if our "Family" is based on an actual gathering. Men are (almost) conspicuously absent. One young lady is holding a scroll – might this be self portrait of Yo, having won and award or obtained a diplo...

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