

GALERIE OSCAR DE VOS



J E N N Y M O N T I G N Y

The class room

Circa: c. 1920

1920-25

Oil on canvas

30 x 40 cm

This oil painting is the first version of the painting *The class in Deurle* (94 x 137 cm, private collection). The painting *Class of the Deurle school* shows a classroom where children from three to six years old sit at their school desks. Almost all the students from the school were villagers. The school in Deurle then had barely two grade classes where mostly boys attended school. The two monastic sisters (the so-called 'papnonnen') are busy and squeeze between the rows of benches. (V. Henau, 2013)

Exhibitions

- 1987, Deurle, Museum Leon De Smet, Huldetoontoonstelling Jenny Montigny, 05.07-23.08.1987, no. 19 (ill.).

Literature

- Blondeel, K., *Vrouwelijke schilders in Gent* (UGent: 2002-03).

- Boyens, P., Sint-Martens-Latem. Kunstenaarsdorp in Vlaanderen (Tielt/Sint-Martens-Latem: Lannoo/Art Book Company, 1992), 59-61.
- De Smet, J., Sint-Martens-Latem. En de kunst van 1870-1970 (Tielt/Sint-Martens-Latem: Lannoo/Art Book Company, 2000), p. 87, 344.
- De Smet, R., "Jenny Montigny," in: Gand Artistique (maart 1927).
- D'Haese, J., R. Lingier, L. Steel e.a., Jenny Montigny (1875-1937), tent.cat. (Deurle: Museum Leon De Smet, 1987) 4-8.
- Eeckels, C., Lenteweelde (4 mei 1930).
- Henau, V., "Moederlijke impressies," onuitgegeven masterproef (Gent: UGent: 2012-13).
- Lemal-Mengeot, C., C. Aliboni, C. Ricota, Jenny Montigny 1875-1937: Lumières impressionnistes, tent.cat. (Charleroi: Musée des Beaux-Arts/Hôtel de Ville, 1997).
- Pauwels, P. & V. Van Doorne, Leie. Rimpeloze eenvoud (Deinze: MuDeL, 2010), 18-19.
- Pauwels, P., Als een fonkelenden spiegel (Sint-Martens-Latem: Galerie Oscar De Vos, 2019).
- Van Doorne, V., J. D'Haese, F. Maere, Anna De Weert, Jenny Montigny, Yvonne Serruys (Deinze: MuDeL, 1988) 25-44.
- Wibo, M.-H., "Jenny Montigny (Gand 1875-1937)," onuitgegeven licentiaatsverhandeling (Louvain-La Neuve: 1989-90).

Artist description:

For the first seventeen years of her life, Jenny Montigny was subject to the typical middle-class upbringing of a moneyed milieu. She had been fascinated since childhood by art and-against the will of her father-did everything possible to achieve this goal. She discovered her great role model at the end of 1892/beginning of 1893 in the Ghent Museum for the Fine Arts: full of admiration, she stood before the painting "De IJsvogels" by Emile Claus that had just been purchased by the City. From 1895, she regularly visited Villa Zonneschijn, Claus' atelier in Astene, to follow free lessons there. In 1904, she exchanged bourgeois Ghent for an independent, uncertain existence in Villa Rustoord in Deurle.

She spent the years of the First World War in London. She was active in among others the Women's International Art Club. The war years, however, were a financial catastrophe; back in Deurle she was forced to sell her house. A smaller house on Pontstraat in Deurle followed; she had to house her atelier on Dorpsstraat. Sint-Jozef school was nearby. Here she was able to study her favourite subject undisturbed: the romping children of Deurle. However, the financial problems continued. Claus helped her on more than one occasion; after his death, she received support from her sister. In any case, this material uncertainty indicates that there were few buyers available for her work during the interwar period. Montigny disappeared a bit from the Ghent scene in the years between the two world wars; she only sporadically took part in the exhibitions of the local Cercle Artistique et Littéraire. Repeated individual exhibitions indicate that Brussels appealed to her more. Montigny's exhibitions attracted attention and her work was regularly well received in the press. Somewhat estranged from the artistic milieu, in 1937 she has died in her house on Pontstraat in Deurle.