

A masterpiece of one's own

Madame Jenny by Kees Van Dongen

The Musée des Beaux-Arts offers its visitors the opportunity of a privileged moment with a selection of masterpieces, presenting them in a comfortable room dedicated to them. A rich corpus of documentation accompanies them, providing visitors with numerous keys to interpretation. After *Villas à Bordighera* (1884) and *Monte-Carlo vu de Roquebrune, impression* (1883) by Claude Monet (1840-1926), it's the turn of painter Kees Van Dongen (1877-1968) and fashion designer Jenny Sacerdote (1868-1962) to be highlighted.

The Dutch artist is particularly renowned for his portraits of women, with their lanky figures and intense gazes. *Portrait of Madame Jenny* (1923) is an eloquent example. The genius dressmaker is depicted in a pink dress of her own creation. The jewels she wears are particularly highlighted by the painter, who had a definite fascination for feminine toiletries.

Not only does this painting tell the story of the friendship between two Parisian artists who regularly spent time on the Côte d'Azur, but it also reveals the prodigious social rise of two unknowns whose talent catapulted them to the front pages of the worldly journals of the early 20th century. This masterpiece and the story behind it can be seen at the Musée des Beaux-Arts Jules Chéret from January 13 to September 28, 2025.



Kees Van Dongen, *Portrait de Madame Jenny*, 1923, huile sur toile
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