Drawing - <i>Le Sacre du Printemps</i>

Object: Drawing
Place of origin: Paris (drawn)
Date: ca. 1913 (drawn)
Artist/Maker: Gross, Valentine, born 1887 - died 1968 (artist)
Materials and Techniques: Pencil on paper
Credit Line: Given by Jean Hugo
Museum number: S.179-1999
Gallery location: In Storage

Public access description
Sheet of sketches of Le Sacre du Printemps, Diaghilev Ballets Russes. Sketches by Valentine Gross, ca. 1913.

The figures in the centre of the page with their hands behind their heads, wearing high hats and jackets appear to represent the tall women in Scene 1 affectionately referred to as ‘the storks’ while the images round the edge may well be preliminary sketches of Chosen Maiden in the Danse Sacrale.

Diaghilev Ballets Russes Le Sacre du Printemps, also known as The Rite of Spring choreographed by Nijinsky and decor by Nicholas Roerich was first premiered in Paris at Théâtre de Champs-Elysées on 29 May 1913.

This sketch is part of the Valentine Gross Archive (THM/165), held by the V&amp;A Department of Theatre and Performance. Valentine Gross Archive contains research material and artwork, including sketches, studies, drawings, pastels and illustrations. Only the artwork materials have been catalogued with museum numbers and given item level descriptions found in the Search the Collections webpage.

Valentine Gross, a.k.a. Valentine Hugo, was a French art student in Paris in the 1910s. She became a ballet enthusiast, illustrator, researcher and painter. Valentine Gross witnessed annual seasons of Diaghilev Ballets Russes in Paris and made preliminary sketches during performances and rehearsals between 1909 and 1919. She later worked them up into pencil or coloured drawings of various degrees of finish including illustrations and paintings.


Descriptive line
Sheet of sketches showing preliminary sketches of the Danse Sacrale from Le Sacre du Printemps, Diaghilev Ballets Russes. Sketches by Valentine Gross, ca. 1913

Physical description
Sheet of pencil sketches showing scene 2 of Vaslav Nijinsky's ballet Le Sacre du Printemps. Six full figure sketches of Maria Piltz as the Chosen Maiden, two head sketches and, lower left, a group of the women.

Dimensions
Height: 19.2 cm, Width: 26.5 cm

Museum number
S.179-1999

Object history note
One of a series of drawings made by the artist Valentine Hugo during performances by the Diaghilev Ballets Russes in Paris following the premiere of Nijinsky's Le Sacre du Printemps in 1913

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O11383/ile-sacre-du-printempsi-drawing-gross-valentine/