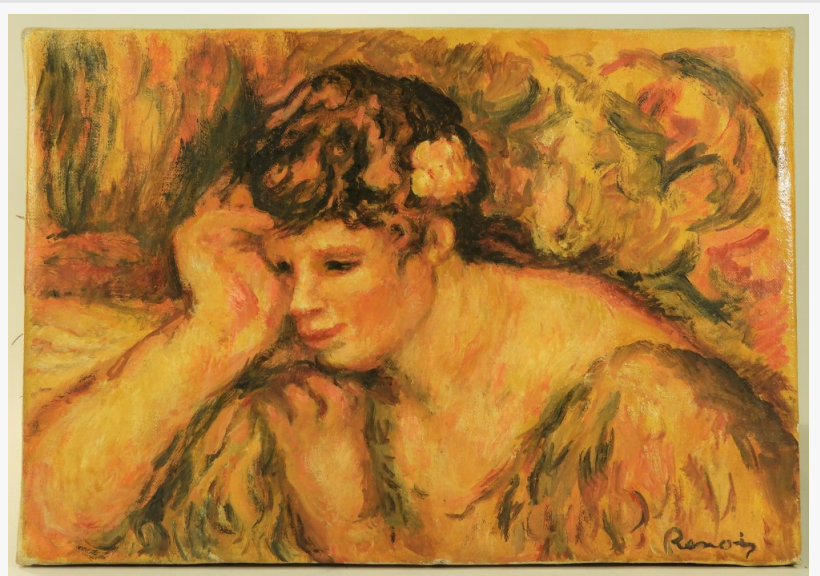


# Market-fresh portrait painting by Renoir will be auctioned sometime in the fall or winter by Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers

*The unframed, small-scale oil on canvas portrait painting was appraised in July for \$250,000. The auction will be held online and in Bruneau's gallery at 63 Fourth Avenue in Cranston, R.I.*

CRANSTON, RI, UNITED STATES, August 16, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A fresh-to-the-market oil painting by the [French impressionist master](#) Pierre Auguste [Renoir](#) (1841-1919), done around 1918 and titled Portrait of Gabrielle leaning on her hand, promises to be the centerpiece lot in an auction planned for fall or winter – probably in November – by Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers, online and in the firm's gallery at 63 Fourth Ave.

A firm auction date will be posted on the Bruneau & Co. website, at [www.bruneauandco.com](http://www.bruneauandco.com).



The painting, executed circa 1918, was appraised in July for \$250,000.

Last month, the painting was given an insurance appraisal of \$250,000 by Dr. Lori Verderame, Ph.D, the director of Masterpiece Technologies

“

It's a good feeling when you have a higher-end item, like this Renoir painting, which has all the information on the back, making what's on the front all the more beautiful.”

*Kevin Bruneau*

Trumbauersville, Pa. Dr. Verderame said in her report the painting's signature, lower right (“Renoir”) was “in the artist's characteristic manner,” and the sitter was the artist's “long-standing model and relative by marriage, [Gabrielle Renaud](#).”

The painting – a small-scale oil on canvas portrait, unframed, measuring 14.25 inches by 9.80 inches – is typical of Renoir's style. He was a consummate celebrator of beauty and especially feminine sensuality. Works by him are highly coveted by collectors. In May 1990, Renoir's work

Bal du moulin de la Galette sold for \$78.1 million at an auction held by Sotheby's in New York.

“It's a pretty surreal experience to be handling an authentic Pierre Auguste Renoir painting,” said Travis Landry, a Bruneau & Co. specialist and auctioneer. “Plus the fact that this is a first time to the market painting with authentication, fresh out of a Massachusetts estate, literally makes my heart race. It just goes to show there is so much stuff out there that's still left to be discovered.”

Bruneau & Co. company president and auctioneer Kevin Bruneau added, “It's a good feeling

when you have a higher-end item, like this Renoir painting, which has all the information on the back, making what's on the front all the more beautiful. Provenance is everything with this or any painting, and it's exciting to offer this one with the history that it has. It was a real find."

The information on the back includes markings on the verso stretcher that read, in French, "Palais des Beaux Arts, Exhibition" (stamped); and words written on verso stretcher and canvas "Par Mon Main" (translated as "by my hand"). The work is also marked and dated "Renoir 1918" and is marked on verso "Ambroise Vollard 6 rue Lafitte 19..." (with the rest illegible).

Vollard was Renoir's art dealer and longtime friend who had a gallery at 6 rue Lafitte in Paris, from 1896-1924. He represented Renoir's work to the art market, along with other luminaries of the day such as Bonnard, Picasso and Cezanne. Vollard was the artist's representative at the time of Renoir's death, and it's possible this painting was left in Vollard's studio and later marketed.

As for the dark-haired sitter, Gabrielle Renaud, she is depicted leaning on her right hand near her right eye. Her left hand is on her chest. Her deep-set dark eyes and closed mouth are accentuated, as is the white flower hair accessory shown above her left ear. The foreground and background suggest printed floral textile and wallpaper in a palette of gold, yellow, brown and other colors.

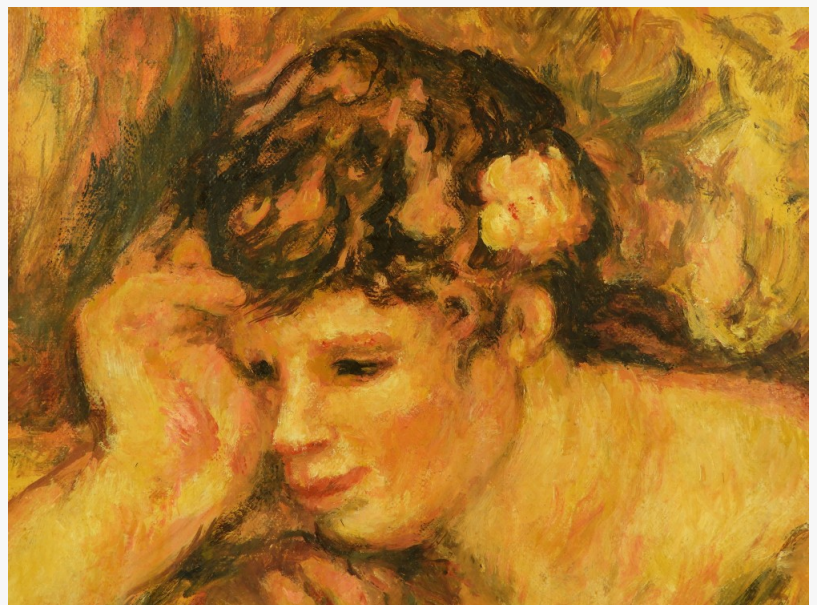
Gabrielle's life is nearly as fascinating as the artist who painted her. Born in the Aube region of France on Aug. 1, 1878, she was a cousin of Aline Victorine Charigot, who became the wife of Pierre Auguste Renoir. At age 16, Gabrielle moved to Montmartre, in Paris, to live with the Renoir family. There, she worked as a nanny for the Renoirs' two (and later three) children.

Gabrielle became the subject of many of Renoir's portraits. She was often depicted with the Renoir children. During the last few years of Renoir's life, he suffered from rheumatoid arthritis but he continued to paint, with Gabrielle's assistance. She would place the artist's paint brushes carefully between his disfigured fingers so he could continue to produce art, from 1917-1919.

In 1921, Gabrielle married an American painter, Conrad Hensler Slade (1871-1955), and they had a son, Jean (named after Renoir's son). Following the occupation of France by the Germans during World War II, Gabrielle and her family moved to the United States, where Jean, who had



The painting's signature is "in the artist's characteristic manner," according to Dr. Lori Verderame, PhD.



The painting's subject was Gabrielle Renaud, Renoir's wife's cousin and the nanny to the couple's three children.

taken Renoir's famous last name for himself, as Jean Renoir, became a Hollywood film director.

After Conrad Slade's death in 1955, Gabrielle moved to Los Angeles to be near her son and live out her days. She died at her home in Beverly Hills in 1959. History won't remember her so much, but she was a central figure in the life of one of fine art's true giants. Her assistance in all facets of his life helped Renoir become as prolific as he was, producing thousands of artworks.

Pierre Auguste Renoir was born in the manufacturing town of Limoges, France, in 1841. His family moved to Paris when he was four. He took an early interest in graphic arts and at age 13 went to work for a ceramics firm, painting flowers on porcelain. Later he took a job decorating fans. In 1861 he enrolled at the Gleyre atelier, where Sisely, Monet and Bazille were studying.

The rest, as they say, is history. Renoir went on to become a leading painter in the development of the impressionist and post-impressionist style. His paintings are notable for their vibrant light and saturated color, frequently focusing on people in intimate and candid compositions. The female nude was a primary subject. The painting in the auction is a fine example of his work.

Online bidding is via [bidLIVE.Bruneauandco.com](http://bidLIVE.Bruneauandco.com), [LiveAuctioneers.com](http://LiveAuctioneers.com), [Invaluable.com](http://Invaluable.com) and [Bidsquare.com](http://Bidsquare.com), or by downloading the mobile app "Bruneau & Co." on iTunes or GooglePlay.

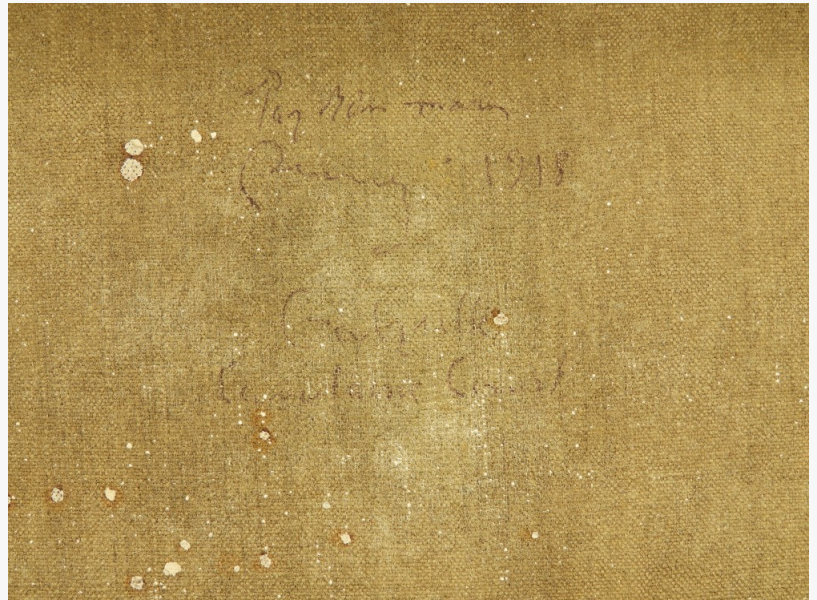
To learn more about Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers and the firm's calendar of upcoming auctions, visit [www.bruneauandco.com](http://www.bruneauandco.com). To contact the company via e-mail, use [info@bruneauandco.com](mailto:info@bruneauandco.com).

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Markings on the painting's verso stretcher, plus Renoir's signature and date and more, make this work the genuine article.



Handwritten by Renoir on verso stretcher and canvas is "Par Mon Main" ("by my hand").

This press release can be viewed online at: <http://www.einpresswire.com>

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