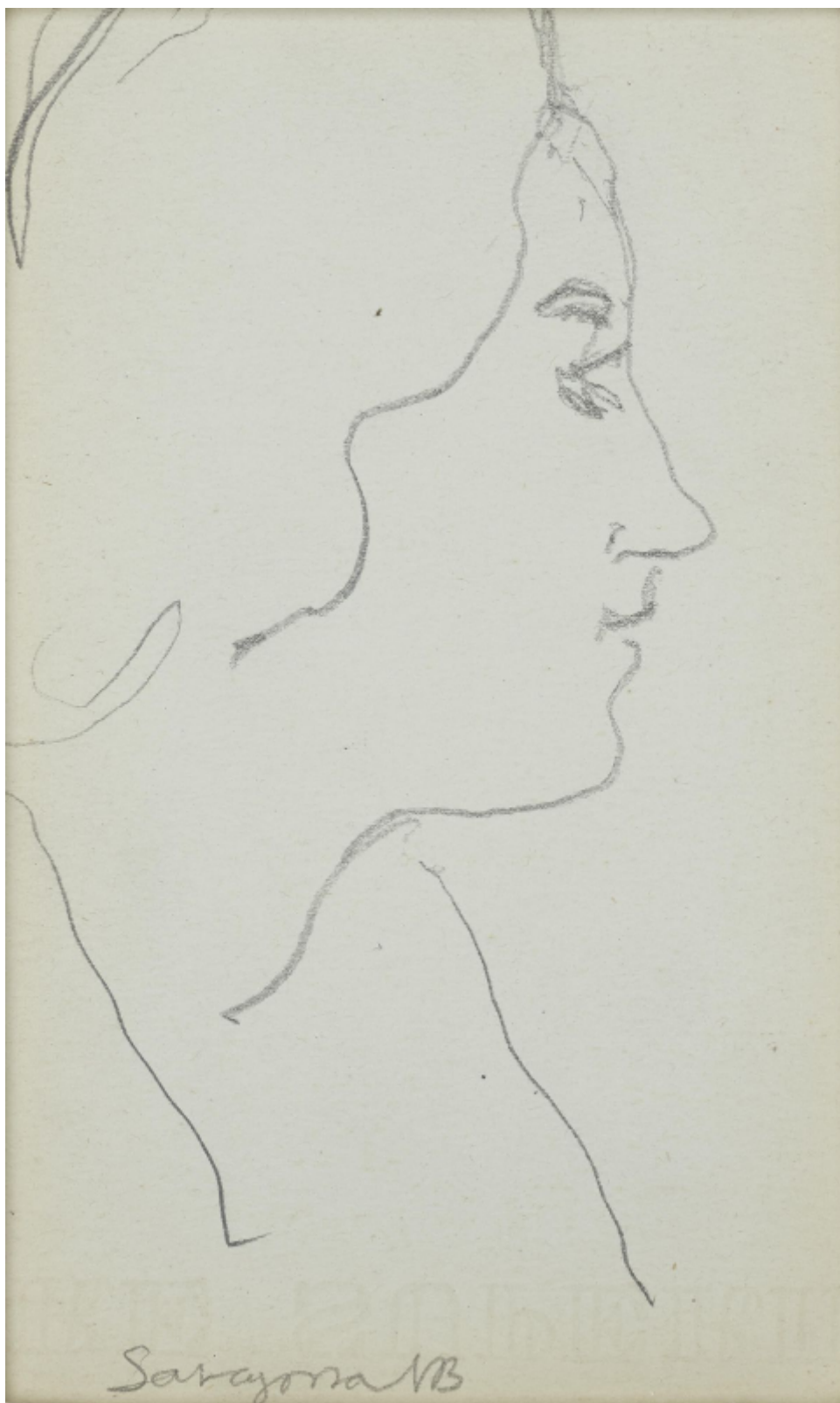


Study of a Lady, Zaragoza, Spain

Sold



Description

Vanessa Bell (1879-1961)
Study of a Lady, Zaragoza, Spain

Signed with initials and inscribed lower centre: Saragossa VB
Pencil on wove watermarked paper
14.3 by 9 cm., 5 ½ by 3 ½ in.

Provenance:

By descent to the artist's daughter Angelica Garnett (1918-2012);
Given by her to the previous owner

Vanessa Bell was the daughter of Sir Leslie and Julia Stephen and grew up in London. On the death of her father in 1904 she moved to Gordon Square, Bloomsbury with her sister Virginia Woolf. The social events they held there led to the formation of what was later dubbed the 'Bloomsbury Group.' In 1907 Vanessa married the writer Clive Bell (1881-1964) and prior to the First World War they moved to Charleston Farmhouse near Fittlehampton in Sussex with her on-off lover the artist Duncan Grant (1885-1978).

As an artist she was enthused by Roger Fry's Post-Impressionist exhibitions in 1910 and 1912 and imitated their bright earthy colours. She exhibited at the New English Art Club in 1909 and her first solo exhibition was at the Omega Workshop in 1916. She became known for her strong highly coloured portraits and also designed the dust jackets for her sister Virginia Woolf's books.

This drawing originates from a sketchbook used on the artist's trip to Spain with Duncan Grant in May and June 1923. There they met up with Roger Fry and visited Madrid and Toledo as well as Zaragoza.