

PORTRAIT OF AMALIE ZUCKERKANDL. 1917/1918

Unfinished

Oil on canvas, 128 x 128 cm

Unsigned

Inventory Nr. 7700

Acquired in 1988 from Viennese private ownership

Formerly in the Zuckerkandl collection, Vienna, the Bloch-Bauer collection, Vienna, and the Müller-Hofmann collection, Vienna

Novotny/Dobai, Nr. 213

Cf. Strobl III, Nrs. 2468–2493

First exhibition: Gustav Klimt Memorial Exhibition, Secession, Vienna, June–July 1928, Nr. 58

Amalie Zuckerkandl (1869–1944) was the wife of the Viennese medical professor, Otto Zuckerkandl, who in turn was the brother-in-law of the journalist, writer and admirer of Klimt's work, Berta Zuckerkandl. In 1914 Klimt had already done a series of pencil studies for Amalie's portrait. Her long absence from Vienna caused

the work to be interrupted and it could only be continued in 1917. The portrait shows her sitting; the pose is uncompromisingly head-on, all illusion of space being absent, (this latter feature remaining even in the finished painting). In Klimt's late work the choice of a square format for a portrait is unusual.

