

**Dora Arnd-Raschid, Portrait of a Young Woman in Traditional Dress with a Beer Glass, c. 1910, oil on canvas, 67 x 51.5 cm, signed lower right "DORA ARND-RASCHID. MEININ," unframed. Condition: wax-doubled and retouched, some areas slightly impastoed, in need of some restoration.**

Dorothea Arnd al Raschid von Stephanitz (Leipzig 1869 – 1945 Meiningen), known as Dora Arnd-Raschid, was the daughter of the colorful architect, private scholar, and author Friedrich Helwig Arnd (1839–1911) and his first wife Therese Hauth, his cousin. Her grandmother was Maria Friederike von Stephanitz. Like so many female painters of her time, she was a well-known artist in the first third of the 20th century, yet today she is almost forgotten.

Her father certainly had a decisive influence on her artistic career and her life, which was marked by frequent changes of location. Born into a family of goldsmiths from Hesse, he was born stateless in St. Petersburg, where he initially trained as an architect. He then studied and earned his doctorate in philosophy in Leipzig, where his daughter Dorothea was born after he married his cousin Therese. However, during his time as director of the Geographical Institute in Weimar, he began an extramarital affair with Helene Böhlau (1856–1940), who came from a Weimar publishing dynasty and later became a prominent writer and champion of women's rights. In order to marry her, he moved with her to Istanbul and, after converting to Islam in 1886, changed his name to Omar al Raschid Bey. They later moved to Munich.

Dora Arnd-Raschid was taught portrait painting in Berlin from 1884 to 1889 by Karl Stauffer-Bern (1857–1891) and Karl Gussow (1843–1907). From the early 1890s, she lived in Freiburg im Breisgau, then from the mid-1890s until 1913 in Kiel, where she also ran a studio for students, and later, until her death, in Meiningen, where she had previously stayed on several occasions.

Arnd-Raschid was able to exhibit her work in many important institutions until the First World War. She contributed her works to the Great Berlin Art Exhibition (1893, 1894), the International Art Exhibition of the Association of Berlin Artists (1891), the annual exhibition at the Munich Glass Palace (1893, 1899, 1900), the Württembergischer Kunstverein in Stuttgart (1904–1908), the Kunsthalle Kiel and the exhibitions of the Schleswig-Holsteinischer Kunstverein (1897–1913), of which she was a member, the Kunstverein Heidelberg (1911), the Kunstverein Mannheim (1912), and many more. Well-known works include portraits of the writer and diplomat Ernst von Wildenbruch, the writer Hans von Wolzogen, Princess Anna Luise von Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt-Sondershausen, and the poet Stine Andresen, which is now in the Kunsthalle Kiel.

Despite being in need of restoration, the painting offered here is also quite special. This is less due to the depiction of a young woman—who has not yet been identified—in traditional dress, which has been extremely popular since Franz von Defreggers (1835–1921) painted countless portraits of dirndls. Rather, it is the ostentatious inclusion of a glass of beer that makes the portrait absolutely extraordinary. Until well into the 20th century, it was not considered proper for middle- and upper-class bourgeois women to drink beer. Only female workers, who were increasingly emerging in the wake of industrialization, often unmarried and earning their own money, were allowed to do so. Accordingly, depictions such as the one offered here are very rare and can perhaps even be interpreted as an act of emancipation.