

Studies for *Woman at a Window*

By John Downton, 1906-91

Charcoal and wash, about 1934

To see high resolution images of the drawings and painting they were studies for, click the following links:

Study I: <https://bit.ly/2VU7ilv>

Study III: <https://bit.ly/2VAo54k>

Painting: <https://bit.ly/2KxWx9w>

Downton rejected the modernism of his day. Instead he preferred the clarity and purity of Renaissance art.

The two drawings are from a series of studies that show how Downton developed his ideas before making the finished painting.

He began by drawing from life, and then made sketches that simplified and idealised the sitter's features, also moving her head slightly to the side so that it is almost in profile.

It is thought that he was inspired by a famous painting by Italian artist Filippo Lippi, *Madonna and Child with Two Angels* made in about 1460.

Gift from the John Downton Trust in 1998