

# Before the Song



Using elegantly linear flat forms *Before the Song* exemplifies MacRae's most beautiful works. MacRae was fortunate to have the freedom to paint as she wanted and developed a distinct and singular manner of painting that was wholly her own and in *Before the Song* she placed the three women preparing to sing across the canvas blending them into a figured background reminiscent to a fresco of paler colours showing the underpaint or gesso and treating other parts of the composition with additional layers of thin paint as in the hair of the woman on the right in which a lighter tone has been applied on top of the rich rust color.

This quiet moment is poignantly recorded as MacRae successfully creates an image that embraces the scene in its most beautiful and picturesque form. The colors and patterns of *Before the Song* makes this a masterpiece of her work. As many of her painting *Before the Song* is not varnished.

*Exhibited: 1930 - Roerich Museum; 1931 - National Academy; 1931 - Grand Central Art Galleries; 1935 - Currier Museum; 1935 - Boston Art Club; 2008 - Cape Ann Museum.*

Before the Song  
32 x 40 inches

Signed framed  
Figurative composition

Oil on canvas and pencil on board  
Emma Fordyce MacRae