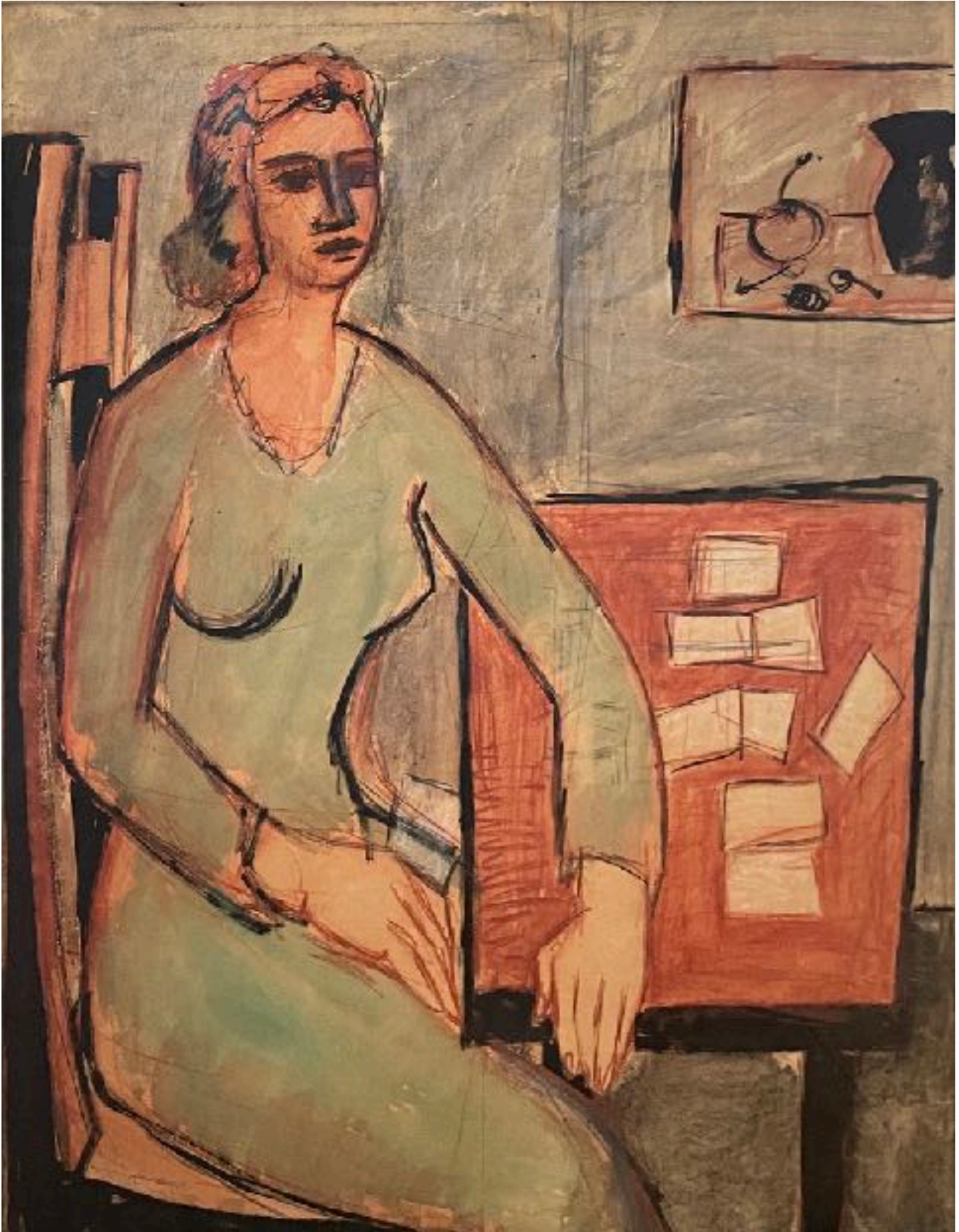


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## *Catalogue Notes:*

Erik Laubscher arrived in Paris to continue his art studies in 1950. Laubscher found the traditional English approach to painting in London stifling, and made the decision to change teaching locales based on the encouragement he received. He was also astute enough to realise that in order to establish himself apart from all the other artists as well as the realisation that he required to build on his skills.

At the Académie de Montmartre, a shift in his work can be seen. His London paintings were dominated by expressive black construction lines, evoking the work of Bernard Buffet, while Paris saw him create work saturated in colour, making use of the *optical-physiological perspective* common in the work of Paul Cézanne. This encouraged viewers to approach his work from a variety of vantage points.

In this drawing, the table top is tilted at an extreme angle, the female subject is seated comfortably in a high-back chair. There is a possibility that the sitter could be Claude Bouscharain whom Laubscher met in Paris when she also continued studies at the Academie. The elegant swept back hair-style and striking facial features lends support to this possibility. The similarity in the availability of the props in this



*Still Life with Iron and Fruit (1950)*

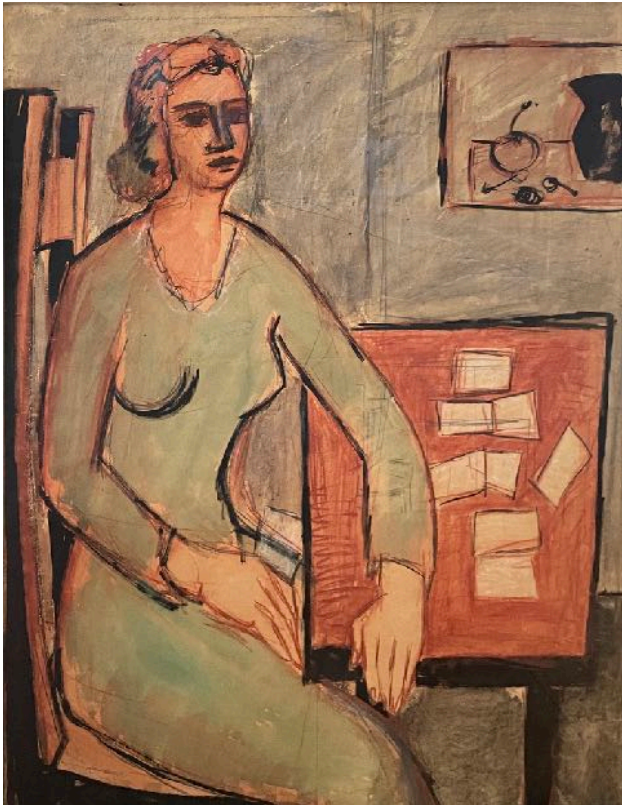
composition draws a strong comparison to the still life work from the same year [*Still Life with Iron and Fruit (1950)*, sold at auction in 2017 for R1 800 000 (\$135 252)].

The playing cards on the table in front of the female subject, although blank, hint at a game for one. Hung on the back wall of the interior is a still-life work, recognisable from

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Laubscher's days as a student at the Anglo-French Art Centre. The angular form of the jug, as well as cherries and apples, made appearances in his Paris still life works too.



Erik Laubscher

South African 1927-2013

*SOLITAIRE*

1950

signed and dated 50

ink, wash and pastel on paper

97,5 by 72,5cm

VR\_ELEL\_01

*Provenance:*

From the artist's personal collection and thence by descent.

This masterful drawing has been released by the Erik Laubscher Estate for acquisition.