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Claude Bouscharain was enrolled at the Arts Student League in New York when she painted this work. Fresh from the L'Ecole Des Beaux Arts in Paris she found the change of pace and style exhilarating. Her tutor, Morris Kantor, a Russian-born emigre, of whom it was said 'that he had no hobbies and that painting was his true love,' taught the importance of composition and good draftsmanship.

The subject of this work is likely a Russian émigré, identified by the type of accordion. The *bayan* was developed in Russia at the beginning of the 20th-century. The articulated buttons on the left of the canvas make this instrument discernible from other types of accordions. The three-button hat is a *pilotka*, worn by field soldiers during World War II. The holes in the knees of his tights, worn with leather boots and shorts, suggests to us that he is young, cash-strapped, and newly arrived in New York.



Claude Bouscharain

French South African 1924-2022

THE ACCORDION PLAYER

1946-1949

oil on canvas, lined

60 by 45cm

VR_PHD_01