

Eemu Myntti: Portrait of Uhra-Beata Simberg

Eemu Myntti's pastel work is a delicate portrait of the young Uhra-Beata Simberg (1914–1979), who at the time of the painting, was only starting her own career as an artist. Today, she is known as the Finnish ryijy-rug artist Uhra Simberg-Ehrström, who had the education of a textile designer as well as a visual artist.

Her father's (an artist Hugo Simberg), and Eemu Myntti's wives were sisters. Ähtäri joined Uhra Simberg's life in a dramatic way, when she was three years old. When the Mynttis and the Simbergs were spending a summer in Ähtäri, Hugo Simberg unexpectedly passed away.

Eemu Myntti has painted the portrait with a beautiful light touch. A few strong lines highlight the shoulders, hairpins and upper arms. The colored areas are airy and painted with muted tones. In your opinion, is Uhra Simberg portrayed as smirking, shy or annoyed?

Among Eemu Myntti's portraits, the pose of Uhra Simberg's face stands out. Why would the artist make one picture where the eyes are almost closed? Was it intended to depict a beautiful shy young lady, or was she actually looking down while posing for the portrait?

Another interesting fact is that the portrait was painted with the same colors that became characteristic of Uhra Simberg-Ehrström as a prominent Finnish ryijy-rug artist of the 1950s–70s.