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(English translation) LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

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Certainly, I saw an influence of Raoul De Keyser whom D'Hollander, much younger, knew personally. But I've also seen something more. And certainly I found points of contact also with Nicolas De Stael, who in common with D'Hollander had the tragic destiny (both committed suicide). But even in this case in the works of Ilse D'Hollander I found a very personal, special additional touch.

Portuguese writer Fernando Pessoa once wrote "The convalescence is a sad joy" and I find that this expression - a sad joy - can also be applied to the small landscapes, often the size of a postcard, by D'Hollander.

What makes D'Hollander a unique artist is precisely her ability to combine in her works contrasting feelings and sensations: the passion within the cold Flemish landscapes, the freshness of the grass even if swept by the northern wind, a spark of joy wrapped in sadness.