

# RONNY VAN DE VELDE

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**Paul Citroen (Berlijn 1896 - Wassenaar 1983)**

**Metropolis, circa 1980**

Lithography

825 x 635 mm

Signed and numbered 83/100

In an edition of 100 copies

**Artist description:**

Paul Citroen was born and grew up in a middle-class family in Berlin. Both his parents were Dutch Jews. His father owned a fur shop. At an early age, Citroen began drawing, provoking strong support from his parents. He soon started to experiment with photography with Erwin Blumenfeld and studied art in Berlin.

In 1919 Citroen began studying at the Bauhaus, where he started taking lessons from Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky (part of Der Blaue Reiter) and Johannes Itten, who became one of his biggest influences. Around this time, he started *Metropolis* (1923), which became his best known piece. Citroen's *Metropolis* influenced Fritz Lang to make his classic film *Metropolis*. Between 1929 and 1935, Citroen made many photographs, clearly influenced by his work with Blumenfeld. He soon started up the Nieuwe Kunstschool (New Art School) with Charles Roelofs. It ran out of money and closed down in 1937. That year, Citroen became a scholar at the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague. Among his many students are Kees Bol, Madeleine Gans, Henk Hartog, and Jos Zeegers. He designed his monumental postage stamps in 1949. In 1960 he stopped teaching and started painting portraits as his main focus. He painted portraits of famous Dutch people, including a well-known portrait of Liesbeth List in 1979.

Paul Citroen died in 1983 in Wassenaar.