



## Adolphe Appian (lyon, 1818 - Id., 1898) - The Little Train

2 900 EUR



Signature : Adolphe APPIAN (lyon, 1818 - Id., 1898)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 46 cm

Height : 32 cm

### Description

Oil on canvas. Signed lower left. 32 × 46 cm. Currently on loan to the Musée de Bourgoin-Jallieu for the exhibition *À toute vapeur ! From Rail to Canvas* (August 30, 2025 - February 14, 2026). Trained at the *École des Beaux-Arts* in Lyon under François Grobon and Augustin Thierriat, Appian made his debut at the Paris Salon in 1835 and later exhibited regularly in both Lyon and Paris. He received a gold medal in Paris in 1868 and an honorable mention at the 1889 Exposition Universelle, following his participation in London in 1862. Knighted in the *Légion d'Honneur* in 1892, he was a friend of Corot and Daubigny and associated with the Barbizon circle. Equally skilled in oil and charcoal, he excelled in subtle tonal contrasts and backlit compositions. His large decorative panel

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Banks of the Ain River, created for the Rhône Prefecture, testifies to his attachment to watery landscapes and riverbanks. In *The Little Train*, a stream leads the eye from the lower right toward an embankment crossed by a steam locomotive. The train, rendered in miniature, stands out through its dark silhouette and pale plume of smoke. Brown hills close the horizon beneath a heavy sky. A bare tree on the left frames the scene, balanced by denser foliage on the right. Short, broken brushstrokes animate the damp grasses, while smoother touches unify the distance. The diffused light glimmers in greenish-grey reflections on the water. Appian creates a dialogue between modernity and the countryside. He does not dramatize the railway; instead, he integrates it into the atmosphere, where silence, humidity, and the slow breathing of the landscape prevail. The precision of the motif serves an authentic and contemplative emotion.