



Joseph Bail (1862 - 1921) - Cats Playing Around A Mirror



8 500 EUR

Signature : Joseph Bail, Limonest 1862 - 1921 Paris, Peintre français, Signature : signée en bas à droite 'Bail Joseph'

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 61 cm

Height : 69 cm

Depth : 10 cm

Description

Joseph Bail
Limonest 1862 - 1921 Paris
French Painter

'Cats Playing around a Mirror'

Signature: signed lower right 'Bail Joseph'?

Medium: oil on canvas?

Dimensions: image size 45,5 x 37,5 cm, frame
size 69 x 61 cm

Provenance: from a private Duch collection

Notes: French naturalist painter known for his
still lifes and depictions of kitchen scenes.
Trained by his father and later under Jean-Léon
Gérôme and Carolus-Duran, he gained

Dealer

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recognition for works in 1887 and in 1894. He won the gold medal at the 1900 Universal Exposition. Influenced by Chardin and realists like Vollon, he focused on detail and color accuracy in his compositions until his death in 1921.

Biography: Joseph Bail, the youngest scion of the esteemed painter Jean Antoine Bail, emerged from the cradle of artistic heritage into the vibrant world of Lyon, where Romanticism swirled in the air and Realism took root in the canvas. Born in 1862, he was nurtured amidst the masterpieces of his father, who not only imparted to him the skills of the craft but also instilled in him a profound appreciation for the art that transcended mere brushstrokes.

Under the watchful guidance of his father and later in the academic embrace of luminaries like Jean Léon Gérôme and Charles-Emile Carolus-Duran, Joseph Bail's artistic journey began to unfold like an intricate tapestry, woven with threads of tradition and innovation. His debut at the Salon in 1878 heralded the advent of a talent poised to make a mark, although the details of this early exhibition remain shrouded in the mists of time.

The 1880s witnessed Bail's artistic prowess blossoming into full bloom, as his canvases bore witness to a kaleidoscope of subjects - from poignant portraits capturing the essence of familial bonds to lively genre scenes depicting the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Inspired by the likes of Chardin and steeped in the Realist tradition, Bail's brush danced with a familiarity that belied his youth.

It was his series of cooks, immortalized in various states of culinary labor and leisure, that would come to define Bail's oeuvre and draw parallels with the works of Théodule Ribot. Yet, beneath the surface of these seemingly mundane scenes

lay a nuanced understanding of light and form, a testament to Bail's mastery of his craft.

The accolades bestowed upon him by the discerning eyes of the Third Republic spoke volumes of his talent - from the honorable mention in 1885 to the gold medal in 1900, each award was a testament to Bail's unwavering dedication to his art. Yet, amidst the glimmering medals and accolades, Bail remained steadfast in his commitment to the Realist aesthetic, eschewing the allure of trends in favor of a timeless expression of truth.

In 1902, the Salon bestowed upon him the rare honor of a medal of honor, a fitting tribute to a lifetime devoted to the pursuit of artistic excellence. Though the sands of time may have swept away the footprints of many artists, Joseph Bail's legacy endures as a beacon of inspiration, a testament to the enduring power of art to transcend the bounds of time and space.