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## Alexandre Ségé (1819-1885) The Crows, Plain Of Chartres

9 500 EUR



Signature : Alexandre Ségé

Period : 19th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Oil painting

Length : 33 cm hors cadre

Width : 41 cm hors cadre

Description
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Alexandre SÉGÉ

(Paris, 1819 - Coubron, 1885)

The crows, plain of Chartres

Oil on canvas

H. 33 cm; L. 41 cm

Signed and dedicated lower right "to Me  
Boussaton"

Probably around 1884

Dealer
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Galerie de Frise

Specialist in ancient paintings

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Related works :

- Painting from the Salon of 1885, number 2199,  
titled En pays chartrain, preserved at the Musée  
des Beaux-Arts de Chartres, in the style and close  
composition

- Painting preserved in the Chartres museum,  
titled Scene of plowing in Beauce

Provenance:

- Me Auguste Jules Boussaton (1821-1901),

auctioneer and collector;

-Its sale, June 5, 1901, Hôtel Drouot, lot 77 "Les corbeaux, plaine de Chartres".

Before undertaking the big trip to Italy,

Alexandre Ségé trained with Léon Cogniet and

the landscaper Camille Flers. Apart from a few

views of Switzerland, his work will be essentially

devoted to France: Corsica, which he visited very

early, in the 1840s, Pas-de-Calais and especially

Brittany, which he discovered in 1838 and where

he returned. regularly. Although he stayed mainly

in Erquy and Cap Fréhel, where he spent the war

of 1870, he was also attracted by the austere

moors of the Monts d'Arrée. Although he

exhibited regularly at the Salon since 1844, he

would have to wait more than thirty years before

receiving a second class medal in 1873, then the

Legion of Honor the following year. An austere

worker, a sincere, literate and delicate artist, he is

described by Louis Enaut, in the Paris Salon of

1882, as "...certainly one of the greatest

landscapers of our time...nature is for him the

object of a cult sincere and pious; he experiences

real emotion when he picks up his brushes to

paint it...". In L'Artiste, on the occasion of the

Salon of 1877, Arsène Houssaye wrote: "So he is

never wrong about the range of skies, waters,

trees and grasses. He penetrates its intimate

harmony." Ségé is the painter of vast expanses

with distant and clear horizons, treated with

simplicity and realism, where he shows himself

close to an artist such as Antoine Chintreuil. But

in our painting, he adds a touch that we could

consider German, or at least Nordic. The

comparison with the work of a certain Friedrich is

quite tempting... The stormy atmosphere, the

crows circling in the foreground to the point of

occupying three-quarters of the work, the

millstones and the cathedral presented as simple

silhouettes, are all borrowings from fantastic and

romantic imagery. The work is in the spirit of his

most famous painting, In Chartres Country, ample and large composition (136 x 204 cm) with differentiated plans where light and space serve as a setting for Chartres Cathedral. Another painting in the same style, of similar dimensions to ours, was recently acquired by the Chartres museum. The interest in Chartres can be explained by the roots of Ségé's family in this city, where his father, a roaster, was born (and where his uncles and cousins are active in the food and livestock professions), even if he settled in Bondy (current eastern suburbs of Paris) around 1840. Alexandre was also, from 1881 to 1883, mayor of Coubron, a commune neighboring Bondy and where his friend Corot had settled in the 1870s/ 75. Note that the buildings visible in these Chartres paintings are probably those of the hamlet of Sèche Côte, in Champhol. The dedicatee of the painting, Auguste-Jules Boussaton (1821 - Monaco, 1901), was a famous collector and auctioneer, specializing in artist sales (works by the same painter, charity sales for widows of artists , etc...). He officially stopped his activity in 1876, replaced by his young colleague Tual, but continued to be active in the art world, putting on exhibitions. On May 12, 1874, he had notably organized the sale of 32 paintings by Alexandre Ségé, and the two men maintained friendly ties.