



Grazing Cattle By Louis Robbe (certified)

3 200 EUR



Signature : Louis Robbe

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Length : 58 cm

Height : 43 cm

Depth : 6 cm

Description

"Animaux au Pâturage" by Louis Robbe is a quintessential example of 19th-century Belgian animal painting, showcasing Robbe's skill in depicting rural life with realism and sensitivity. The painting reflects the influence of Eugène Verboeckhoven, particularly in its detailed rendering of animals and its focus on the pastoral landscape.

The painting depicts a serene pastoral scene, typical of Louis Robbe's work, featuring a mix of cows and sheep grazing peacefully in a lush meadow. A shepherd is seen in the midground, overseeing the animals. The foreground is dominated by a calm body of water reflecting the grazing cows. The reflections add depth to the scene, drawing the viewer's eye into the landscape. The midground features the grazing

Dealer

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animals spread across the meadow. The placement of the animals is balanced, with the cows and sheep interspersed naturally across the landscape. The background is filled with a dense line of trees, which provides a natural barrier and frames the scene. The sky above is softly lit, with warm tones suggesting either early morning or late afternoon.

Robbe employs a naturalistic palette dominated by greens, browns, and yellows. The greens of the grass and trees are vibrant, reflecting the healthy, fertile environment. The warm tones of the sky and the soft light illuminating the animals create a peaceful, idyllic atmosphere. The play of light and shadow is expertly handled. The light appears to come from the right, casting gentle shadows and highlighting the texture of the animals' fur and the grass. The careful use of light adds realism and a three-dimensional quality to the scene.

Robbe's brushwork is precise and detailed, particularly in the rendering of the animals and the textures of their fur. The water in the foreground is depicted with fluid, smooth strokes that capture the reflections and the subtle movement of the water. Robbe's painting exemplifies realism, with a meticulous attention to detail. The animals are depicted with anatomical accuracy, and the landscape is rendered with a keen observation of nature. This commitment to realism aligns Robbe with the broader realist movement of the 19th century.

Eugène Verboeckhoven, a leading Belgian animal painter, was one of Robbe's early mentors.

Verboeckhoven's influence is evident in "Animaux au Pâturage" and reflects a shared interest in the rural landscape and the depiction of livestock. However, while Verboeckhoven's work often has a more polished, almost idealized quality, Robbe's approach is slightly more naturalistic, capturing the everyday reality of rural life with a softer, more atmospheric touch. On the back of the painting there is an old label written by the painter himself which reads :

'Je déclare que le tableau ci-joint représentant des animaux au pâturage a été peint par moi et je le déclare parfaitement original. Bruxelles, Le 30 aout 1861 L. Robbe. '

(I hereby declare that the attached picture of cattle grazing in a meadow was painted by me, and I declare it to be completely original. Brussels, 30th August 1861 L. Robbe.)

Louis Robbe (1806-1887)

Early Life and Education: Louis Robbe was born on November 17, 1806, in Courtrai (Kortrijk), Belgium. Initially pursuing a legal career, he studied law at the University of Ghent and practiced as a lawyer for a brief period. However, his passion for art soon led him to abandon the legal profession in favor of painting. Robbe received his artistic training from his older brother, Philippe-Jacques Robbe, and from Eugène Verboeckhoven, a prominent Belgian animal painter. These early influences helped shape his focus on animal subjects, particularly cattle and sheep.

Artistic Career: Robbe quickly established himself as a successful painter of animals and pastoral scenes. His works are characterized by their detailed and realistic depiction of animals, often set against the backdrop of the Belgian countryside. His ability to capture the texture of animal fur, the play of light on their bodies, and the serene rural landscapes made him one of the leading animal painters of his time.

Robbe exhibited his works extensively throughout Belgium and Europe. He won numerous awards, including gold medals at exhibitions in Brussels, Paris, and London. His reputation grew beyond Belgium, and his works were sought after by collectors in France, England, and other European countries.

Style and Influence: Louis Robbe's style is deeply rooted in the realism movement, which emphasized accurate and detailed representations of nature. His meticulous attention to detail and his ability to convey the personality and physicality of the animals he painted set him apart from many of his contemporaries. His works often evoke a sense of calm and pastoral beauty, reflecting the idyllic rural life of 19th-century Belgium.

Robbe was also influenced by the Romantic movement, particularly in his depiction of the natural landscape as a serene and harmonious environment. His ability to combine realism with romanticism made his work appealing to a wide audience.

Importance in Art History: Louis Robbe holds a significant place in 19th-century European art, particularly in the genre of animal painting. His works contributed to the development of this genre, and his influence can be seen in the works of later Belgian and European painters. His paintings were highly regarded for their technical excellence and their ability to capture the beauty of rural life.

In addition to his artistic achievements, Robbe played a role in the Belgian art community as a member of the Royal Academy of Belgium. His legacy is preserved in the many public and private collections that hold his works, including the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium and other European institutions.