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## The Embroidery Lesson - Gustave De Jonghe (1829-1893)



24 800 EUR

Signature : Gustave de Jonghe

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Length : 95 cm

Height : 85 cm

Depth : 7 cm

### Description

"The Embroidery Lesson" is a masterful representation of Gustave De Jonghe's ability to capture the elegance and intimacy of domestic life. Through his sophisticated use of color, meticulous brushwork, and keen attention to detail, De Jonghe creates a scene that is both realistic and emotionally resonant, celebrating the warmth of familial bonds and the transmission of tradition across generations.

"The Embroidery Lesson" by Gustave De Jonghe is an intimate and carefully composed domestic interior scene. The painting features three figures: a man, a young girl, and an elderly woman, who is the girl's grandmother. The grandmother and the girl sit closely together on a richly upholstered sofa, engaged in an embroidery lesson. The grandmother's attentive posture and

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the young girl's focus suggest a moment of shared learning and connection across generations.

Meanwhile, the man, likely the girl's father, is seated in a plush red armchair on the left side of the composition, holding a paper or book. He observes the lesson with a relaxed demeanor, adding to the calm, familial atmosphere.

In the foreground, a doll is placed on a small chair, and a basket filled with colorful threads and fabrics sits beside the grandmother, emphasizing the domestic and nurturing environment. These elements not only add detail to the scene but also highlight the educational aspect of the grandmother's role in passing down skills to the next generation. The background features an ornate fireplace, adding warmth and depth to the setting. The fireplace is decorated with an intricate clock and candelabras, further enhancing the luxuriousness of the interior. The rich decor, including the patterned carpet and wall coverings, reflects the affluence of the family.

De Jonghe utilizes a rich and harmonious color palette, with deep reds, cool blues, and soft grays dominating the scene. The red of the armchairs and the warm tones of the carpet provide a striking contrast to the cool, silvery-blue hues of the grandmother and granddaughter's dresses, creating a visually balanced composition. The light is soft and natural, likely coming from an unseen window. It gently illuminates the figures, particularly highlighting the textures of the luxurious fabrics and the warmth of the setting. The interplay of light and shadow adds depth to the scene, enhancing the realism of the painting.

De Jonghe's brushwork is precise and meticulous, especially in the rendering of the satin fabrics and the intricate details of the interior decor. The textures are beautifully captured, from the soft sheen of the satin dresses to the rich patterns of the carpet and upholstery. The painting is a fine example of realism, a style De Jonghe excelled in. The figures are depicted with lifelike accuracy, and the environment is rendered with great attention to detail, reflecting the opulence

and comfort of the bourgeois lifestyle.

The painting tells a touching story of familial bonding and the transmission of skills across generations. The grandmother is patiently teaching her granddaughter the art of embroidery, a skill likely passed down through their family.

The young girl's attentive posture and the grandmother's focused guidance highlight the importance of this intergenerational exchange.

The painting exudes a warm, nurturing atmosphere. The calm expressions and gentle interaction between the grandmother and granddaughter convey a sense of love, care, and continuity. The father's relaxed presence further underscores the peaceful and harmonious family life depicted.

Art Historical Context:

Gustave De Jonghe was known for his detailed and elegant depictions of bourgeois domestic life, often focusing on the roles and activities of women within the home. His works, including "The Embroidery Lesson," are influenced by and share thematic similarities with those of his contemporaries, such as Alfred Stevens and Auguste Toulmouche, who also explored the quiet, refined moments of domestic life.

Gustave De Jonghe (1829-1893)

Gustave Léonard De Jonghe was born on February 4, 1829, in Kortrijk, Belgium. He was the son of the painter Jan Baptiste De Jonghe, known for his landscape paintings. Gustave was introduced to art at an early age, training under his father before attending the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Brussels. His early education provided him with a strong foundation in the academic and technical aspects of painting, which he would later refine in his career.

De Jonghe initially focused on historical and genre scenes but eventually became renowned for his elegant depictions of women in luxurious interiors. His works are characterized by meticulous detail, rich textures, and a refined portrayal of light and color. De Jonghe's paintings often depict the leisure and domestic life of the

bourgeoisie, capturing the elegance and refinement of 19th-century society.

Moving to Paris, De Jonghe became a well-established figure in the art community, regularly exhibiting at the Paris Salon, where his works were met with acclaim. His art resonated with the tastes of the Parisian elite, ensuring his success and prominence in the art world.

De Jonghe shared a close professional relationship with Alfred Stevens, another Belgian painter who similarly focused on genre scenes of fashionable women. Both artists were part of the Parisian art scene, often exhibiting together at the Salon. Their works share similarities in subject matter and style, with a mutual focus on depicting the refined and elegant lifestyles of the upper class.

Also Jules Adolphe Goupil, a French painter and art dealer, played a significant role in De Jonghe's career. Goupil was part of the prominent Goupil family, known for their influence in the art market. As an artist, Goupil was known for his detailed and polished paintings, often depicting similar subjects to those of De Jonghe. The connection between De Jonghe and Goupil was not just artistic but also commercial, as Goupil's family business helped promote and distribute the works of artists like De Jonghe. This association with the Goupil name enhanced De Jonghe's reach and reputation across Europe.

Gustave De Jonghe's work remains to be celebrated for its technical precision and its depiction of 19th-century European society's elegance.