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Attributed To Johann Rudolf Koller (1828-1905) - Cow In The Stable



950 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Oil painting

Length : 32

Width : 42

Description

Johann Rudolf Koller (1828-1905)
Cow in the Stable

Oil on canvas, 32 x 42 cm

Provenance:
Private collection, south of France

Johann Rudolf Koller, a major figure in 19th-century Swiss painting, is often referred to as the "painter of animals" due to his exceptional talent for depicting rural life and Alpine landscapes. Born in Zurich, Koller grew up close to nature, an influence that deeply shaped his art. Trained in Munich, he later traveled across Germany and Switzerland, absorbing the influences of Romanticism and Realism. His

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attachment to rural life reflects a period marked by increasing industrialization, during which artists sought to immortalize the simplicity and beauty of the countryside.

In Cow in the Stable, the artist (or the attributed author) demonstrates a touching realism and great sensitivity in portraying the animal. The cow, with its reddish-brown and white coat, is depicted with remarkable anatomical accuracy, a hallmark of Koller's work. The animal's expressive gaze and its slightly turned position toward the viewer convey a subtle humanization, typical of the naturalist works of the time. The play of light on the cow's fur harmoniously contrasts with the dark, neutral background, enhancing the texture and three-dimensionality of the figure.

The work also showcases meticulous attention to the details of rural daily life, such as the straw-covered ground, which evokes a familiar and peaceful atmosphere. This painting belongs to the tradition of animal scenes by Koller, where he sought to capture not only the appearance but also the essence of animals, silent witnesses to Swiss pastoral life.

This interest in animals as artistic subjects echoes contemporaries such as Rosa Bonheur in France or Wilhelm von Kaulbach in Germany, who also explored animal representations within a realist framework. However, Koller stands out for his intimate and almost empathetic approach, an element that earned him enduring recognition in Switzerland and beyond.

This oil on canvas, although modest in size, perfectly embodies Koller's art and his talent for imbuing his animal subjects with a sense of dignity.