Lachièze-rey (1927-1974) The Gray Restaurant

22 000 EUR



Signature : Henri LACHIÈZE-REY (Caluire et Cuire, 1927 - Lyon, 1974)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 130

Height : 81

Description

Oil on canvas. 130 x 81 cm. Signed upper right. Framed. Henri Lachièze-Rey's work is entitled Le restaurant gris and gives us a view of customers seated in a bistro in the city of Lyon. The space is suggested by the arrangement of the tables and chairs, as well as by the moldings and architectural elements in the background. The dominance of shades of gray and pale blue creates a foggy and melancholic atmosphere, reinforcing an impression of softness and intimacy. The stifling of the colors is accentuated by this impression of smoky rooms while a few darker touches, notably in the silhouettes of the characters and the details of the furniture, bring a certain rhythm to the painting. Everything in the composition reflects the discreet agitation of a restaurant in operation, where no person or object

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dominates the scene. The human figures are deliberately represented blurred and indistinct. The brushstrokes are visible, with a thick texture and impasto. This treatment gives the painting an almost tactile aspect and reinforces the character of the work. In many of these works, Lachièze-Rey seems, in fact, to want to explore modern life and spaces of socialization, by highlighting not individuals, but a collective atmosphere. Throughout his career, Henri Lachièze-Rey never ceases to describe these closed places, to lock himself in them as if he found in the confinement (the compressed lighting, the muted colors and contours, the indistinct faces), the means to inscribe himself in a certain history of painting. His personal concerns also burst into his painting. The characters in the cafés or billiard tables are thus traversed, in the pale glow of the faces, by the threat of their disappearance. Born on December 26, 1927, in Caluire (Rhône), Henri Lachièze-Rey is the son of the philosopher and Professor Pierre Lachièze-Rey. He first studied at the École des Beaux-Arts in Lyon, then at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He exhibited in Lyon, Cannes and Paris, and became a member of the Salon d'Automne. He also exhibited at the Salon des Peintres Témoins de leur Temps and at the Biennale de Menton on several occasions, where he received a prize in 1959. A retrospective of his work was organized in 2003 at the Paul Dini Museum in Villefranche-sur-Saône. In 1949, he won the Prix de Paris, then in 1954-55, thanks to the prize of the Mediterranean Union of Modern Arts, he stayed at the Villa Zoé in Nice with his friend Georges Adilon. In 1957, he married the ceramist Jeanne Charpe. He then lived in Saint-Tropez, then in Tuscany in 1959. Back in France, from 1961 to 1974, he settled in Saint-Romain-du-Mont d'Or and worked with Adilon and his Sanzist friends, the painters Cottavoz, Fusaro, and Truphémus. His first solo exhibition took place in 1956 at the Douvaine town hall. Then his works were presented in Paris

at the Cartier gallery and in Lausanne, in 1965, 1970 and 1972 at the l'Entracte gallery. Other exhibitions took place in Lyon in the Saint-Georges and Bellecour galleries and also in Annecy, Cannes, Toulouse and in New York, at the Franck Partidge gallery, specialized in French figurative painting of that period. Alas, this brilliant career was brutally cut short. Henri Lachièze-Rey died accidentally, knocked down by a car in Lyon, on July 14, 1974. Since then, he has occupied a special position between martyr and mystery.