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## François-auguste Ravier (1814-1895), Hamlet At The Break Of Day

3 000 EUR



Signature : François Auguste RAVIER (Lyon, 1814 -  
Morestel, 1895)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Water color

Width : 22 cm

Height : 31 cm

### Description

Watercolor on paper. 22 x 31 cm. Signed lower right. Watercolor on paper. With frame. This watercolor by Auguste Ravier (1814-1895) embodies the artistic maturity he achieved after settling in Morestel, in the Dauphiné, from 1867 onwards. Ravier developed a landscape approach where light and color became the true subjects of the work, foreshadowing the Impressionist treatment of light. The scene, bathed in warm, misty tones, evokes either dusk or dawn—a moment favored by the artist for its subtle atmospheric variations. The isolated houses at the center, surrounded by an almost ethereal nature, express less a descriptive intent than a sense of romantic sublimity, in the tradition of Turner and Delacroix. Ravier's brushwork, sometimes broad and nuanced, sometimes quick and broken, gives

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the landscape a floating impression, reinforced by his use of brown, orange, and blue shades. The bare tree on the right contributes to the melancholic and poetic atmosphere, where golden light shapes the forms and dissolves the contours. The restrained composition reveals Ravier's virtuosity in suggesting the immaterial, making light itself the central focus of his art. Auguste Ravier studied law in Paris from 1833 to 1839. He began painting in Montmartre and the Forest of Fontainebleau before studying painting at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris under Théodore Caruelle d'Aligny and Jules Coignet. In the summer of 1835, he traveled to Royat, in Auvergne, where he met Corot, who gave him valuable advice and became a major influence on his work. He traveled to Italy, likely at Corot's suggestion, and stayed there from 1840 to 1845. Upon returning to France, he withdrew to isolated rural areas, first in Crémieu in 1852 and then in Morestel in 1868, where he would live until his death. Once settled in Morestel, Ravier began painting the local countryside: streams, ponds, and rolling plains bordered in the distance by the first mountains of Savoy. His style evolved from early neoclassicism to romantic landscape painting, and his work is notable for the complete absence of the human figure. Ravier loved to capture the effects of twilight light, the interplay of shadows and light, the slow changes in atmosphere at dusk, and the cool tones of clouds contrasted with the warm hues of the setting sun reflected in ponds, which he painted with bold colors. He found watercolor to be an ideal medium for capturing fleeting moments, tracing reds, oranges, and greens across his skies to contrast with the grayness of rainy landscapes, which he confined to the lower part of the canvas. In *Le lavoir de Morestel*, he reversed the traditional relationship between form and background: the sky stands out in energetic strokes against the dark mass of trees. The sky, as a source of light, thus becomes the main element of his work. In the artist's own words, "everything

is in the sky, the clouds and the atmosphere  
intoxicate me, it is inexhaustible,  
infinite." Although he lived in seclusion in  
Morestel, Auguste Ravier maintained close ties  
with painters of his era. He corresponded  
extensively with his contemporaries and hosted  
many artists during their travels in Italy. Some  
painter friends also settled near him around  
Morestel. Recognized by his peers, Ravier's work  
was nevertheless rarely exhibited during his  
lifetime. His apprehension about facing criticism,  
combined with financial comfort, led him to  
avoid salons and exhibitions except on rare  
occasions throughout his life. Public collections  
France: Paris, Musée d'Orsay; Paris, Louvre  
Museum; Aix-les-Bains, Musée Faure; Lyon,  
Musée des Beaux-Arts; Morestel, Maison Ravier;  
Brest, Musée des Beaux-Arts; Grenoble, Musée  
de Grenoble; Marseille, Musée Cantini; Reims,  
Musée des Beaux-Arts; Toulon, Musée d'Art...  
United States: Cleveland, Cleveland Museum;  
Washington, National Gallery of Art...United  
Kingdom: Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum...