



Hans Thoma (1839-1924), Boy At The Source, 1897

220 EUR



Signature : Hans Thoma

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

Length : 50 cm

Height : 40 cm

Description

Hans Thoma
(1839 Bernau - 1924 Karlsruhe), Boy at the
source, 1897. Algraph on strong wove
paper after a drawing from 1897, published by
Breitkopf und Härtel in Leipzig
as 'Zeitgenössisches Kunstblatt Nr. 144', 36 cm x
45 cm (image), 40 cm x 50 cm
(sheet size), signed and dated on the left in the
rock, signed and dated on the
lower right below the image. With publisher's
sticker on the reverse

- Corners
somewhat bumped and slight crease at bottom
right, otherwise in very good
condition

- Elixir of

Dealer

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Life -

A naked boy

discovers a spring in a forest thicket and marvels at the water flowing out of a dark cave. Hans Thoma, always concerned with deeper meanings in his paintings, creates an allegory inspired by Philipp Otto Runge's Romanticism and depictions of springs. The young man's nakedness symbolizes the vulnerability of human existence. Lost in the thicket of life, he hopelessly searches for meaning. Suddenly, he discovers the spring, his external and internal elixir of life. About the artist

After failing to complete his apprenticeship as a lithographer, painter and clockmaker, Hans Thoma trained as an autodidact painter. In 1859 he won a scholarship to the Karlsruhe Art School, where he became a student of Wilhelm Schirmer and Ludwig Des Coudres. After graduating in 1866, Thoma spent time in Basel and Düsseldorf. He met Otto Scholderer, with whom he traveled to Paris in 1868. There he was impressed by the art of Gustave Courbet and the Barbizon School. After his works were rejected by the Karlsruhe Kunstverein, Thoma moved to Munich in 1870, where he was close to the Leibl circle. Wilhelm Trüber worked for a time in Thoma's studio in Munich. In 1874 he made the first of a series of trips to Italy with the painter Albert Lang, where he met Hans von Marées and Adolph von Hildebrand and became friends with Arnold Böcklin, whose art made a lasting impression on Thoma. On his return to Munich, Thoma became a student of Cella Berteneder, whom he married in 1877. Thoma traveled to England in 1879 at the invitation of art collector Charles Minoprio. Over the years, Minoprio acquired more than 60 oil paintings by Thoma and

organized the first exhibition of his art abroad in Liverpool in 1884. Thoma had lived in Frankfurt since 1878. The following year, the Frankfurter Kunstverein organized the first solo exhibition of his work. After a trip to the Netherlands, Thoma moved to Kronberg im Taunus in 1899, where the Kronberg painters' colony was based. That same year he was appointed professor at the Karlsruhe Art School and director of the Karlsruhe Kunsthalle. In 1901, together with Wilhelm Süss, Hans Thoma founded the Grand Ducal Majolica Manufactory in Karlsruhe, for which he supplied designs from then on.

Thoma was now at the height of his artistic fame. The 1909 edition of Meyer's Großes Konversations-Lexikon noted that Thoma had become one of the German people's favorite painters. On the occasion of his 80th birthday in 1919, Ernst Oppler and Lovis Corinth organized a large celebration. After Thoma's death, the Berlin National Gallery dedicated a major exhibition to him in 1922, and the Basel Kunsthalle in 1924.