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Louis Clesse (1889 - Brussels - 1961) - ' Along The Path, Oudenburg '



7 900 EUR

Signature : Louis Clesse (1889 - Bruxelles - 1961), Peintre belge, Signature : signée en bas à droite ' Louis Clesse'

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 124 cm

Height : 103 cm

Depth : 10 cm

Description

Louis Clesse 1889 - Brussels - 1961 Belgian Painter 'Along the Path, Oudenburg' Signature: signed lower right 'Louis Clesse' Medium: oil on canvas Dimensions: image size 80 x 100 cm, frame size 103 x 124 cm Biography: Louis Liévin Théophile Clesse (Ixelles, Brussels, 15 June 1889 - 9 February 1961) was a Belgian Post-Impressionist and Realist painter, aquarellist, and etcher, widely celebrated for his evocative landscapes, maritime scenes, still lifes, and portraits. His art is distinguished by a lyrical interplay of light and color, expressed through confident brushwork and a keen sensitivity to atmosphere. Born in Ixelles (Elsene), a district of Brussels, Clesse was the youngest of eight children in a family of modest means. His father, François Auguste Clesse, worked as an

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upholsterer, and his mother, Augustine Josèphe Leduc, nurtured a tight-knit household. From an early age, Louis was introduced to the arts by his older brother Theo, who was the chief assistant in the decorative painting studio of Paul Hermanus and an amateur painter himself. Clesse began his formal studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Ixelles, where he excelled as a student, winning numerous prizes and, in 1904, the prestigious government medal for painting. After completing his studies, he worked for the firm of Hermanus, producing decorative pieces and reproductions of old masters for private interiors--a formative experience that honed his technique and observational skill. His early exposure to the work of established painters like Alfred Bastien and Emile Claus deeply influenced his artistic development. While Clesse's roots lay in realism, he quickly embraced a more subjective and expressive approach to painting. He sought not to replicate the visible world, but to interpret its emotional resonance through bold color harmonies, textured brushstrokes, and painterly compositions. In 1907, Clesse made his debut at the Brussels Triennial Salon with a woodland scene. He would go on to exhibit regularly across Belgium and abroad--in Antwerp, Liège, Charleroi, Mons, Barcelona, and Nice, among others. Throughout his career, he remained an active figure in the Belgian art world, contributing to journals such as *Revue de l'Art Belge* and *Savoir et Beauté*, and participating in various cultural institutions. Clesse's favored subjects included the forests and ponds around Auderghem (where he summered and eventually became an honorary citizen in 1959), the Zenne Valley, the Sonian Forest, and the countryside and harbors of West Flanders, Ostend, Nieuwpoort, and Zeebrugge. Between 1928 and 1932, he also painted extensively along the northern French coast from a base in Petit-Fort-Philippe. From the 1930s onwards, he maintained a studio in Oudenburg, from where he explored the scenic Flemish polder landscapes

and the city of Bruges. His style is often described as a compelling synthesis of Realism and Impressionism. Deeply inspired by artists such as Franz Courtens, Isidore Verheyden, and particularly Emile Claus, Clesse cultivated a personal idiom that blended painterly fluency with a grounded sense of place. His plein-air method--sometimes even on large canvases--was complemented by thoughtful studio reworkings, giving his oeuvre both immediacy and refinement. In addition to landscapes and harbor scenes, Clesse created still lifes featuring game and poultry, drawing from his own passion for hunting. He also produced portraits and figure compositions. His works consistently reveal a profound connection to nature and a deep appreciation of light and seasonal moods. A committed member of the Cercle Artistique et Littéraire (Cercle Gaulois) since 1910, Clesse also served on the acquisition committee of the Ixelles Museum and was a founding member and vice-president of the Cercle d'Art d'Ixelles, as well as the Association des Artistes Professionnels de Belgique. In a rare honor, the municipality of Auderghem named an avenue after him during his lifetime, in 1942. Louis Clesse died in Ixelles on February 9, 1961. He was buried there, and his grave bears a sculpted portrait by René Cliquet (1899-1977), a lasting tribute to his artistic stature. Today, Clesse's work can be found in both public and private collections across the globe. His paintings are preserved in Belgian museums in Antwerp, Brussels, Ixelles, Schaerbeek, Charleroi, and Ostend, as well as in international institutions and embassies in Reims, Algiers, Cairo, Kaunas, Rio de Janeiro, San Francisco, and Tokyo. His legacy endures in the vibrant, poetic vision he brought to the Belgian landscape and beyond.