



PROANTIC  
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

---

## Alexander Ferdinand Wust, Seascape Off Cape Cod, Circa 1870.

2 200 EUR



Signature : Alexander Ferdinand Wust (1837 - 1876)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Width : 23 cm

Height : 12,5 cm

Description
-------------

Painter born in Dordrecht and later naturalized American, Alexander Wust belongs to the generation that, after the rise of the Hudson River School, steers landscape painting toward a tighter luminism, attentive to atmospheric effects and precise topography. Our seascape shows a heeling sailboat before rare white cliffs comparable to Martha's Vineyard/Cape Cod--a motif unusual in American iconography, more often associated with dunes and headlands. Through its nautical precision, dramatic tension, and strong sense of place, the work captures a turning point on the northeastern coast--from the theater of maritime labor (fishing, coasting trade, whaling) to the emerging culture of seaside leisure and imagination. Trained within a European lineage (Turner, Stanfield, Courbet) and active in New

Dealer
--------

**ARTSELEKT**

Visual Identities

Mobile : +33 673635456

12 rue Vivienne

Paris 75002

York from the late 1850s, Wust exhibited at the National Academy of Design, the Brooklyn Art Association, and PAFA. His eye converses with Lane, Kensett, Heade, and Gifford: a modulated sky, the sea brushed in nervous strokes, and the sail's diagonal structuring space. Here, the white cliff is no mere backdrop: it anchors an identifiable headland--a site of passage and peril--turning a marine scene into a memory of the shore. The rarity of the subject, together with the signature, makes this panel a unique document of the visual construction of the nineteenth-century New England coast. It illuminates the contribution of a transatlantic artist--celebrated in his day (medals, international exhibitions) and represented in major collections (MFA Boston, New-York Historical Society, Adirondack Museum, Vassar, etc.)--to the invention of an American landscape. A choice piece for any collection of marines, the work unites European heritage and American experience, sensitive realism and atmospheric poetry, fixing one of the coast's rare pale escarpments in the national imagination. A detailed catalogue note is available upon request.