



French Social Realist School (c. 1870) - The Dipsomaniac



1 400 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Description

Oil on canvas. Original canvas. In the wake of Théodore Géricault's sublime and unsettling portraits of the monomaniac and the mentally ill, this austere and implacable image of a worker marked by alcoholism transcends mere individual pathology to acquire a dimension of profound sociological and naturalistic testimony. The work denounces, with relentless pictorial force, not only the abject social alienation and inevitable physical degradation to which alcohol abuse leads, but also the failing economic structure that fuels and perpetuates the misery of the working masses. This man, whose face reflects existential despair, seems to have stepped straight out of the pages of Émile Zola, embodying the biological and social fatalism that literary naturalism denounced with brutal honesty. The painting

Dealer

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becomes a visual echo of Hippolyte Taine's theories on the determinism of environment and race, and resonates with Émile Durkheim's studies on social anomie. By depicting the worker irresistibly drawn to the only precarious "antidote" to class suffering, the work aligns with the sociological critique that saw alcoholism as a direct consequence of industrial exploitation and dehumanization. This portrait thus constitutes a social denunciation as eloquent as any naturalist treatise or novel, and a masterpiece of late 19th-century social realism. - Image dimensions without frame: 36 x 48 cm / 54.5 x 64 cm with a magnificent custom-made late 19th-century French frame in stuccoed and gilded wood.