



Adolphe d'Hastrel (1805-1874) - Alpine Landscape With Boats And Mountains - Watercolor - Signed

400 EUR



Signature : D'HASTREL DE RIVEDOU Etienne Adolphe
(1805 - 1874, France)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Water color

Width : 30 cm (à vue) / 41 cm (encadré)

Height : 17,5 cm (à vue) / 32 cm (encadré)

Description

This luminous watercolor testifies to the technical mastery of Étienne Adolphe d'Hastrel de Rivedoux, a renowned 19th-century naval officer and traveling painter. The work depicts a peaceful scene on the shores of an Alpine lake, likely in Switzerland or Savoy, where the artist sensitively captured the serene atmosphere of an afternoon by the water. The composition is harmoniously structured around several planes: in the foreground, a sandy bank dotted with emerging pilings suggests modest port activity. The middle ground shows several lateen-rigged boats moored near the shore, with figures going about their business. A cluster of majestic trees on the left creates a vertical and shaded counterpoint, while picturesque ruins can be glimpsed on the heights. The background reveals an imposing mountain

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range with snow-capped peaks, rendered with remarkable delicacy in shades of blue and white. The sky, rendered in subtle gradients from pale blue to golden beige, contributes to the overall peaceful atmosphere. The refined palette, characteristic of the Romantic style, features warm ochres, soft greens, and atmospheric blues with a transparency typical of watercolor. This work perfectly illustrates d'Hastrel's talent for capturing natural landscapes during his many travels. The work is in very good condition, with only a few discreet foxing spots in the sky. It is signed in the lower right corner. The work is displayed under glass, in a gray mat, within a simple, modern gilt frame, also in very good condition. The Artist Born in 1805 into a noble family from the Charente region, Étienne Adolphe d'Hastrel de Rivedoux embodies the figure of the 19th-century painter-explorer, combining a military career with artistic passion. Joining the Royal Navy, he dedicated his life to voyages of exploration and the graphic documentation of the lands he visited. His naval career took him to the four corners of the world. He participated in several scientific and diplomatic missions that took him to the Indian Ocean, East Africa, Madagascar, and the Mascarene Islands. These expeditions provided him with the opportunity to develop a remarkable body of watercolors and drawings, invaluable records of the people, landscapes, and architecture of the regions he explored. D'Hastrel distinguished himself through his dual approach, both artistic and ethnographic. Trained in topographical drawing according to the tradition of naval officers, he went beyond simple documentary illustration to create works of genuine pictorial sensitivity. His watercolors reveal accomplished technical mastery, particularly in the treatment of light and atmosphere, characteristic of the Romantic style of his time. He published several illustrated travel albums that enjoyed considerable success among the educated public of the July Monarchy and the

Second Empire. His works are appreciated both for their aesthetic value and for their contribution to the geographical and ethnographic knowledge of overseas territories. Alongside his far-flung travels, d'Hastrel also painted European landscapes, notably Alpine and Mediterranean views, demonstrating his interest in the diversity of natural beauty. He died in 1874, leaving behind a considerable body of work now dispersed among public and private collections, a testament to a century of exploration and curiosity about the world. Artwork on display at the gallery (07240). Shipping: please contact us for shipping costs within France and internationally.