



## Alexandre Francia (1817-1884) - Herons Near A Waterfall - Oil

4 200 EUR



Signature : Alexandre Thomas FRANCIA (Calais, 1817 -  
Bruxelles, 1884)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 68 cm hors cadre

Height : 48 cm hors cadre

### Description

Alexandre Thomas FRANCIA(Calais, 1817 -Brussels, 1884)Herons near a waterfall,probably in ScotlandOil on canvasSigned lower right48 x 68 cmThere is still some doubt about Alexandre ThomasFrancia's date of birth. Somebelieve he was born in London on April 1, 1815. Indeed, his parents havingchosen to emigrate during the revolutionary period, the Francia family tookrefuge in London from 1790. We then find them in Calais from 1817. However,according to the information contained in Salon booklets, Alexandre Thomas wasindeed born in Calais...That being said, Alexandre Thomas was the son of theFrench landscape painter François Louis Thomas Francia (1772-1839), renownedduring his lifetime for his watercolor talents, whose favorite theme

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wasseascapes. Obviously, a student of his father, Alexandre Thomas would also be a renowned painter and watercolorist in the same specialty. He traveled to the Netherlands around 1831, discovered Brussels in 1835, and then Italy, particularly Naples and Venice. He also traveled throughout France, clearly drawn to Brittany, before leaving for Ireland and then Scotland. His first official submission was in 1831 at the Douai Salon, where he exhibited a Dutch seascape alongside his father. This was followed by his first participation in the Paris Salon four years later in 1835. His last participation in this Salon was in 1866, with his final submission being a painting entitled *Souvenir d'Ecosse*, perhaps our painting. Alexandre Thomas also pursued an international career, participating in the Salons of London, Vienna (he won a medal at the 1873 exhibition), Antwerp in 1861 and 1864, Ghent in 1862, and Brussels, where he received a gold medal in 1851. It was in this city that he would settle permanently. He breathed his last there on July 23, 1884. For his artistic merits, Alexandre Thomas was made a Knight of the Order of Leopold (Belgium), Knight of the Order of Medjidîé (Turkey), Crown of Oak (Holland), and Commander of the Order of Isabella (Portugal). Museums: Calais, Königsberg (Poland)... In this composition, typical of naturalist romanticism, Alexandre Francia depicts an alpine scene crossed by a fast-flowing, steep torrent, punctuated by the presence of two herons at the water's edge. The painter excels in capturing the dynamics of the waterfall, the rocky textures, and the richness of the vegetation. This work, combining naturalistic rigor and poetic sensitivity, reflects the fascination of 19th century artists, like his contemporaries Alexandre Calame (1810-1864) and Gustave Doré (1832-1883), for majestic nature.