



**PROANTIC**  
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

---

Paris - Montmartre / Saint Pierre / Raymond Besse (1899-1969) / Oil On Canvas



680 EUR

Signature : RAYMOND BESSE (1899-1969)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Oil painting

#### Description

Raymond Besse (1899-1969) Saint-Pierre de Montmartre Oil on canvas, signed lower left, countersigned and titled on the reverse 46 × 56 cm (unframed) - 64 × 75 cm (framed) This work depicts the church of Saint-Pierre de Montmartre, seen from the Place Saint-Pierre, at the corner of Rue du Mont-Cenis and Rue Saint-Éleuthère, with the dome of the Sacré-Coeur Basilica appearing in the background. Raymond Besse powerfully and sensitively captures the atmosphere of old Montmartre, still preserved, enlivened by a few figures of passersby. The viewpoint adopted by the artist is precisely on the Place Saint-Pierre, a historic space directly adjacent to the church. The composition is structured around the architectural mass of Saint-Pierre, whose bell tower and apse are

#### Dealer

**ARTYGEORGES**

Peinture ancienne & moderne

Tel : 0471689602

Mobile : 0674559787

Montclard

Anglards-de-Salers 15380

immediately recognizable, while the partially obscured silhouette of the Sacré-Coeur unambiguously confirms the site's location. To the left of the composition, the alignment of buildings corresponds to the Rue du Mont-Cenis, an old street running alongside the church and still retaining its historical layout today. In the narrower axis, behind the building, one can discern the Rue Saint-Éleuthère, which connects the square to the area around the Sacré-Coeur. The buildings in the foreground, with their massive facades and closed shutters, are characteristic of the old buildings bordering the Place Saint-Pierre, reinforcing the impression of a working-class and authentic neighborhood. With its vigorous treatment of materials, its muted palette enlivened by warmer touches, and the discreet yet vibrant presence of anonymous figures, this work fully embodies the stylistic maturity of Raymond Besse, likely dating from the late 1930s to the 1950s. James Raymond Besse, born in 1899 in Niort and died in 1969 in Candé-sur-Beuvron, was a 20th-century French painter primarily known for his views of Paris and its working-class neighborhoods. Settling in Paris in 1916, he quickly absorbed the urban atmosphere of the capital, particularly that of Montmartre, the northern suburbs, and the area around the Seine, which would become his preferred subjects. He exhibited for the first time at the Salon des Indépendants in 1923, and subsequently participated regularly in the Salon d'Automne, establishing himself as a significant figure in the Parisian art scene of the interwar and postwar periods. Raymond Besse's painting belongs to the Post-Impressionist movement, with a strong Expressionist sensibility. Heir to the tradition of painters of modern life, he favored an atmospheric and sincere approach to the city, far removed from any idealized or touristic vision. His brushstrokes are dense, often impastoed, his palette dominated by muted grays, blues, and ochres, accurately conveying the low skies, rain, snow, and winter light of Paris. His figures,

generally sketched, participate in urban life without ever becoming anecdotal. Close in spirit to artists such as Maurice Utrillo and Albert Marquet, without ever imitating them, Raymond Besse developed a personal language, rooted in vernacular architecture and everyday atmospheres. He also painted provincial landscapes, notably in Normandy and the Loire Valley, while remaining deeply influenced by Paris. Today, his work is appreciated for the quality of its pictorial material, the accuracy of its compositions and the documentary and poetic value of its urban views, which make him an authentic and sought-after representative of 20th century Parisian painting.