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Alfred Godchaux, Moonlight In The Undergrowth, Animated Winter Landscape.

1 800 EUR



Signature : Alfred Godchaux

Period : 19th century

Condition : Restauré

Material : Oil painting

#### Description

This work is a particularly accurate and accomplished illustration of Alfred Godchaux's art as described by Pierre Delbarre in his 1886 monograph, *\*Le peintre Godchaux et ses oeuvres\**. Delbarre emphasizes a fundamental point: Godchaux is not a painter of isolated details, but an artist of the feeling for nature, dedicated to rendering light, atmosphere, and the overall sensation of the landscape. This is precisely what this painting reveals. The composition depicts a winter undergrowth, bathed in a veiled moonlight, whose light is gently reflected on the surface of a calm stream. The large, bare trees structure the space with their vertical masses, while the background dissolves into a diffuse mist, creating the silent depth that Delbarre describes as essential in Godchaux's

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work. A solitary, discreet, almost indistinct figure appears on the opposite bank. It is not a subject in itself, but an element of scale and poetry, reinforcing the feeling of solitude and contemplation. Delbarre also emphasizes that in Godchaux's work, the human figure is never anecdotal: it serves nature, it does not dominate it. A painting of masses, tones, and light. As Delbarre writes, Godchaux "sees clearly" and paints quickly, with remarkable sureness of vision. Here, the painter favors: large, legible masses, harmonies of muted and nuanced tones, a palette dominated by warm grays, browns, ochres, and deep greens, luminous golden touches, concentrated on the moon and its reflections in the water. The snow is not treated as a uniform white surface, but as a living material, animated by subtle variations, blending impasto and more seamless transitions. The water, rendered with delicate horizontal strokes, captures the moonlight with great subtlety, giving the impression of luminous radiance that Delbarre considers one of Godchaux's great talents. This painting perfectly illustrates what the critic calls a sincere painting, where the feeling for nature takes precedence over any technique or fashionable effect. Godchaux is neither academic nor Impressionist: he belongs to that generation of independent painters, heirs to Courbet, for whom direct observation and the truth of the landscape are essential. Signature: The painting is signed in the lower left. The signature, partially faded by time, remains legible and perfectly recognizable, consistent with known signatures of Alfred Godchaux. Condition: The work has recently undergone careful restoration: complete cleaning of the painted surface, slight localized retouching, perfectly integrated, and application of a final varnish, restoring depth and unity to the whole. The painting is now in excellent condition. Framing: It is presented in a thick, modern, custom-made "American-style" frame in black-stained wood with a simple and elegant varnished finish. This contemporary frame

enhances the painting without constraining it,  
highlighting the depth and poetry of the scene.

Dimensions: With frame: 100 × 73 cm; With  
painting: 92 × 65 cm