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Circle Of John Constable (1776-1837) - Landscape



1 200 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : A restaurer

Material : Oil painting on wood

Length : 21

Height : 16

Description

Circle of John Constable (1776-1837)
Landscape
Oil on panel, 16 x 21 cm
Panel irregularly cut along the bottom.
Loss of paint next to the figure.
Provenance:
Private collection, France
A major figure in nineteenth-century English painting, John Constable established himself as one of the great innovators of European landscape art. Committed to a truthful representation of nature, he favored direct observation and the depiction of changing atmospheric effects, anticipating in certain respects the later explorations of the Impressionists. Deeply rooted in the countryside of Suffolk, his work expresses a renewed sensitivity to climate, light, and the

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poetic dimension of rural scenes.
This panel, attributed to his circle, fully reflects that Romantic landscape tradition. The composition is structured around a vast, animated sky filled with swirling clouds, rendered with a free and vibrant handling of paint. Thick impasto and dynamic brushstrokes lend the scene a strong expressive energy, particularly evident in the sculptural treatment of the clouds, whose forms capture and diffuse the light.
In the foreground, warm tones of brown and ochre prevail, enlivened by tall trees with supple foliage. A small rustic cottage nestled to the left evokes the simplicity of country life. To the right, the silhouette of a figure dressed in red introduces a vivid chromatic accent, creating a discreet yet essential focal point within the composition. This touch of red recalls the frequent practice among British landscape painters of adding a bright accent to animate the scene.
The modest dimensions of the panel suggest a study or preparatory sketch, possibly executed outdoors. Despite the noted condition issues, an irregularly cut lower edge and areas of paint loss, the work retains remarkable freshness of execution. It bears witness to Constable's decisive influence on his circle and on English landscape painting as a whole, alongside artists such as Turner, with whom he shared a profound interest in atmospheric effects.
This landscape captivates through its spontaneity and luminous intensity. It reveals a hand attentive to the shifting qualities of the sky and the vibrancy of nature, qualities that lie at the very heart of the Constablist legacy.