émile Friant - Father Pidole At Port Aux Planches



48 000 EUR

Signature : Emile Friant (1863 - 1932)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Description

An exceptional oil on wood depicting Father Pidole at Port aux Planches in the Rives de Meurthe district of Nancy.In this composition, Friant chose to portray
the old man fishing from a wooden boat. Father Pidole was a figure known from
the artist's childhood, an old wanderer from the banks of the Meurthe who later
became the keeper of a pond not far from the Grands Moulins. The artist used
him as a subject for paintings and drawings on several occasions.Signed lower right "E. Friant", circa 1880 - 1890.Panel dimensions: 45 cm × 38 cmÉmile Friant (1863 - 1932) was a major French
painter, printmaker, and illustrator associated with the Naturalist movement.

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Born in Dieuze, he grew up in Nancy after the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. His talent was recognized early, and he trained at the École des Beaux-Arts in Nancy, exhibiting his work from adolescence. Influenced by Jules Bastien-Lepage, he developed an extremely precise style, close to photography, focused on scenes of everyday life and portraiture. His career took off in the 1880s: he won the second Prix de Rome in 1883 and achieved great success at the 1889 Exposition Universelle with his painting All Saints' Day, which earned him the Legion of Honour. He subsequently received numerous commissions and became a highly sought-after portraitist. At the same time, he traveled throughout Europe and North Africa, enriching his artistic inspiration. From the 1890s onward, Friant diversified his practice by turning to printmaking and participating in decorative projects, such as Les Jours heureux at Nancy City Hall. He became a professor at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris in 1906 and continued a distinguished career. During the First World War, he reduced his artistic production and developed an interest in aeronautics, notably contributing to aircraft camouflage. Nevertheless, he continued to produce engravings and drawings. Elected to the Académie des Beaux-Arts in 1923 and made a Commander of the Legion of Honour in 1931, he remained a respected figure. Friant died in Paris in 1932. Today, he is recognized for the finesse of his realism and his humanistic view on society, positioned between academic tradition and modernity.