



## Louis Nattero (1870-1915) Le Mole Vieux In The Port Of Cassis

3 500 EUR



Signature : Louis Nattero (1870-1915)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Length : 55 cm

Height : 33 cm

### Description

A leading expert on seascapes around Marseille, Louis Nattero offers us here a beautiful depiction of a bygone era: the tranquil and picturesque port of Cassis in the 19th century. The light is lovely, and the calm and peacefulness of the port is enlivened by two fishermen working at the end of the Old Pier, one in his boat and the other on the quay. On the other side of the pier, a brig is moored, undoubtedly awaiting cargo. Beside it, a dredging barge, more commonly known as a "Marie-Salope," is visible, its funnel emitting a wisp of smoke. To the far right stands the Villa Paternelle, overlooking the entrance to the Port of Cassis and the old cod-drying shed. The work, in very good condition, is presented in a beautiful carved gilt frame in the Barbizon style, measuring 47 cm by 69 cm, while the canvas itself measures

### Dealer

#### Galerie Marina

19th and 20th century Provençal School paintings

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33 cm by 55 cm. A restful and anecdotal portrait of a sensitive and gifted artist who died too young. Louis

Alexandre Marie Nattero was born on October 16, 1870 in Marseille, 1 rue du Pharo, from the second marriage of Dominique Nattero to Jeanne Joussaume.

His parents quickly separated in 1872 and, in 1880, Louis was placed in an orphanage.

Passionate about drawing, he created his first works around the age of 11: portraits that he managed to sell in order to survive.

After an unhappy childhood, he turned to painting.

In 1891, in Toulon, he married Lucie Durbec with whom he had nine children. His son, Joseph Nattero, born in Marseille in 1904, followed in his father's footsteps and painted throughout his life.

At the age of 26, from October 1896 to April 1897, thanks to a scholarship from the city of Toulon, he attended the École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts in Paris for a few months, where he was a student of Léon Bonnat.

However, he suffered from lead poisoning and had to, with regret, stop his studies in Paris.

He then returned to Toulon, then settled permanently in Marseille, his hometown, in 1904. He also stayed in Aix-en-Provence.

His talent was quickly recognized and his paintings were very successful from 1905. He participated in most of the salons in the Marseille and Toulon region and worked tirelessly to feed his large family.

In Toulon, he exhibited, among others, at the framer Lacqua (31 rue d'Alger) and at the Albano gallery (rue des Trois Dauphins). In 1902, he was present at

the Friends of the Arts exhibition in Toulon and won several prizes.

In Marseille, his workshop is located on Boulevard de la Corderie and his works regularly appear at the Vallet gallery, rue Paradis. He exhibited at the Student Association show and at the Grand Cercle Républicain in 1905.

In 1914, war broke out and three of his sons left for the front. His painting no longer sells. A deep despair overcomes him. On November 10, 1915, at his home, 42 bd Joachim in Marseille, he ended his life by shooting himself in front of his son Joseph.

After a ceremony at the Bonneveine church, he was buried in the common grave at the Mazargues cemetery. The day after his death, the Petit Marseillais launched a collection to help his widow and children. In the Pointe Rouge district, the Marseille town hall gives its name to a roundabout.

In 2004, the Musée du Vieux Toulon organized an exhibition: "Louis Nattero (1870-1915) - Victor Senchet (1879-1973), painters".

The sea

Fishing boats

Louis Nattero is above all a painter of the Mediterranean.

It is for him the true subject of expression when he paints the poetry of a twilight, the sleeping waves of the coves, the fishermen hauling in their nets in an almost hushed calm. He is not the painter of tumult.

In his work, the characters are rare, often distant: a sailor drinking from the feast, a boat on the horizon, fishermen mending their nets, walkers on a quay.

Like a photographer, he captures his subjects in

everyday life and interprets  
them freely.

Largely influenced by the Impressionists, Nattero  
makes light the essential  
element of his painting.

"The vibrant note is in fact the goal that Nattero  
wants to achieve: for this,  
he is not afraid to sacrifice the precise line. It  
admirably gives the  
impression of a teeming crowd on our sunny  
quays, in our picturesque old  
streets by skillfully applied impasto."  
--Marseille Student, May 1905

He knows perfectly the secret of pure colors and  
it is with precision that he  
places a touch of red on the cap of a fisherman or  
a touch of white on the  
rebound of a wave. His palette evolves in shades  
of blue, mauve, pink, pearly  
nuances, warm ocher at dusk; the crashing waves  
changing from metallic emerald  
to the lightest, milkiest green ash.  
He forgets the black.

Works

La Patache in the port of Toulon, oil on  
canvas, 46 ×  
61 cm, 1902-1905, Toulon Art Museum.