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Marie-alexandrine Mathieu (1838-1908) - River Landscape - Oil 1883

1 200 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Description

Marie-Alexandrine MATHIEU
(1832-1906) Remains of a Bridge on the
Nièvre Oil on panel -- signed lower right "Marie
Mathieu" Panel: 18 × 23 cm (7.1 × 9.1 in) --
Frame: 42 × 47 cm (16.5 × 18.5 in) Oil on panel
signed "Marie Mathieu" and dated 1883 lower
right, depicting a river landscape: old stone
bridge piers, crowned with vegetation and linked
by a metal railing, are reflected in the still water
between banks planted with tall trees, beneath a
luminous, cloud-filled sky. A picturesque and
delicate composition, with a fine touch and
beautiful light. Frame: 42 x 47 cm Work: 18 x 23
cm Marie-Alexandrine Mathieu, known as Marie
A. Mathieu (1838-1908), was a French painter
born in Nevers. Attached to the Nivernais region,
she painted its landscapes and worked in

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watercolour, oil, faience and etching, the last of which she excelled at. She exhibited at the Paris Salon, and her works are recorded in several institutions, including the National Gallery of Canada. Four stone piers, the sole survivors of a vanished bridge, rise from a calm river, still linked at their tops by thin, rusted iron girders -- the last trace of a deck long since collapsed or dismantled. Vegetation has reclaimed the ruins: moss and ivy crown the piers, while two lines of trees on either bank open a central view onto a changing sky filled with pale clouds. The dark, still water mirrors the piers and foliage, doubling the presence of the ruins within the composition. To the left, the remains of a stone wall or building hint at a once-larger human presence, now vanished. The panel's small scale (18 × 23 cm) and the precision of the brushwork are characteristic of a plein-air study, in the tradition of small-format outdoor painting favoured by 19th-century regionalist painters. Signature and attribution The work is signed "Marie Mathieu" lower right. It is attributed to Marie-Alexandrine Mathieu (1832, Nevers - 1906, Marzy), a painter, watercolourist, and above all etcher. Her documented body of work, held notably by the Musée d'Orsay, the Petit Palais, and the National Gallery of Canada, is devoted almost entirely to her native Nivernais region. The subject of this panel fits squarely within this documented practice. (No catalogued title matching this specific composition has been located; the bridge depicted could not be identified with certainty, but a view of the Nièvre river is a plausible hypothesis.) Biographical notes Born in Nevers on 17 July 1832 into a cultured bourgeois family, Marie-Alexandrine Mathieu exhibited at the Salon des Artistes Français and worked across oil, watercolour, pencil, and painted earthenware -- though etching was the field in which she achieved her greatest mastery. She died in Marzy on 8 September 1906. Her work is held today in several prestigious public collections, including the Musée d'Orsay, the Petit Palais, and the

National Gallery of Canada.