



PROANTIC
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Antoine Serra (1908-1995) The Rocks Of The Alpilles



900 EUR

Signature : Antoine Serra (1908-1995)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Gouache

Length : 30 cm

Height : 24,5 cm

Description

Judging by the colors the artist chose for this work, it is closer to the Expressionist and Fauvist movements of the Péano artists than to that of the Proletarian movement, to which Antoine Serra belonged and of which he was one of the founders. Magnificent colors, then, and a freedom of expression in this luminous gouache on paper depicting the rocks of the famous Alpilles Massif, which was a major source of inspiration for this painter of southern light, a native of Sardinia who settled near Les Baux-de-Provence in 1946. The work is executed in tempera on paper and is presented in a simple wooden frame measuring, including the Marie-Louise mat, 44 cm by 54 cm, and 24.5 cm by 30 cm for the painting alone. In good condition, with a slight, almost imperceptible tear in the paper in the middle

Dealer

Galerie Marina

19th and 20th century Provençal School paintings

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right--barely visible, but which, if necessary, can be repaired on the back of the work or concealed by the frame. This colorful and cheerful work is signed in the lower right corner. Arriving in Marseille in 1914, he entered the School of Fine Arts in 1921. In

1928, he participated in his first exhibition with a group of painters,

including Simon Auguste and Louis Tonicini. A committed artist, he

founded the "Proletarian Painters" group in 1933, which later became the

"People's Painters" group, along with other politically engaged artists

such as François Diana, Louis Tonicini, and Louis Roc. The canvases

created during this period depict factories and portraits of workers,

all reflecting a profound sadness, a sense of pain and misery. In

1936, again with his group of fellow painters, Louis Tonicini, François

Diana, and Léon Cadenel, he led the first provincial House of Culture in

Marseille (of which he was a founding member), inaugurated by Aragon

and Malraux. After the war, he was suddenly and irrevocably drawn

to the Alpilles mountains, which he discovered by chance during a

visit, captivated by "landscapes bathed in a light that magnifies their

forms." He decided to settle in the region, which he did in 1946, buying

an old farmhouse, renovated over the years, called "Mas du Diable,"

located at the foot of Les Baux-de-Provence. It was in the heart

of this adopted Provence that he could give free rein to his art, far

from the hustle and bustle of Marseille and his previously daily

commitments. However, he still had another wish to fulfill: to reconnect

with his native land, Sardinia, which he had left as a young man. He made several trips there, returning from which he was dazzled. This return to his roots, to this land he was discovering, ignited a frenzy of creation within him. He settled in Olbia, welcomed by close cousins who offered him hospitality, and then spent several months in the mountainous region, in the heart of the villages of Oliena and Orgosolo.

There he painted scenes of everyday life, interior scenes: women baking bread or knitting, family scenes by the fireplace, all rendered with striking realism.

Main Exhibitions

1945: Exhibition with Ambrogiani and Ferrari at the Galerie Jean-Marc Vidal in Paris.

1949: Exhibition at the Salon d'Automne in Paris.

1960: Exhibition of Sardinian paintings in Cagliari (Sardinia) and Paris, Galerie Weill.

1963: Exhibition at the Palais des Arts in Marseille.

1966: Exhibition at the Galerie Chabaud in Paris.

1967: Exhibition at the Château de la Jansonne in Arles.

1968: Guest of honor at the Montélimar Art Fair.

1970: Exhibition at the Galerie Saint Georges in Marseille.

o Purchase of a painting by the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris.

o Retrospective at the Château de Tallard.

1971: Exhibition at the Musée Cantini in Marseille; purchase of a painting by the Musée Longchamp.

1972: Exhibition at the Galerie "Salle Basse" in Martigues.

1974: Participation in the International Biennial, Musée Granet in Aix-en-Provence.

1975: Exhibition in Paris, Galerie "Tamenaga".

1976: Exhibition in Tokyo.

1977: Exhibition at the Musée Départemental de Gap.

1982: Exhibition of paintings from the United States in Martigues, Villa Kariessa.

1984: Retrospective at the Musée de la Vieille Charité

in Marseilleo 1985: Retrospective at the Musée
Paul Valéry in Sèteo 1987: Retrospective at the
Abbaye de l'Epau in Le Manso 1988: Invited for
an exhibition by the Departmental Office of
Culture, Aix-en-Provence Festivalo 1992:
Exhibition in Mourièso
1993: Exhibition at the Théâtre Comédia in
Aubagne o 1995: Last
exhibition during his lifetime, at Mas des Arnaud,
in Saint-Martin de
Crau. Illustrated workso The Starry Stone, by
Charles Galtier, 1955: 16 drypoint etchingso
"Tales of Provence" Vol. 1 (1963), Vol. 2 (1964),
Paul Ricard, Marseilleo The Humble Joy of
Living, by Marie Mauron, 1973: 7 color
serigraphs; 8 black and white screen printso Our
Camargue, by Marie Mauron, 1974: 8 screen
printso The Crau, by Marie Mauron, 1975: 11
screen printso Magical Luberon, by Marie
Mauron, 1976: 13 screen printso The God of
Ventoux, by Marie Mauron, 1976-1977: 8 screen
printso The Mystical Montanette, by Marie
Mauron, 1978: 12 screen printso The Old Man of
the Mountain, by Marie Mauron, 1979: 8
lithographso Mare Nostron, by Marie Mauron,
1985: 24 lithographso If There's Still One Step
Left, by Charles Galtier, 1988: illustrations