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## Aert Van Der Neer (1603-1677) River Landscape In Moonlight (28 × 38 Cm)

7 500 EUR



Signature : Aert van der Neer (attribué)

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

### Description

Attributed to Van der Neer by the René Millet gallery  
This remarkable oil on panel depicts a riverside landscape bathed in the light of a full moon rising on the horizon. A few walkers can be made out in the shadows of the tall trees that punctuate the foreground, while a rowboat glides silently across the calm waters of the river. On the opposite bank, several houses are sheltered beneath the tree canopy, dominated in the distance by the slender bell tower of a church. The power of this composition lies in its exceptional mastery of light. The moon, treated as a true source of light, illuminates the scene and casts a long silvery reflection on the water that naturally guides the eye toward the horizon. The clouds, captured just as they catch the last rays of twilight and the moonlight, seem to literally burst into

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flame. The painter succeeds in rendering this ethereal material almost incandescent through a subtle layering of golden yellows, luminous ochres, coppery reds, and deep purples. This balance between light and shadow creates a deeply poetic atmosphere, where the landscape seems suspended in a moment of silence. This pursuit of atmospheric effects is one of the most distinctive hallmarks of Aert van der Neer, the undisputed master of nocturnal landscapes in the Dutch Golden Age. Few painters of his time were able to achieve such intensity in their depiction of nocturnal light. In his work, the moon is not merely a decorative element: it becomes the true subject of the painting, shaping the space, revealing forms, and enveloping the landscape in a diffused light of rare subtlety. This panel accurately captures the main features of his pictorial vocabulary: the full moon low on the horizon, the tall trees serving as a foil, the shimmering reflections on the water, the dwellings bathed in twilight, and the delicate transitions between the dark masses and the bursts of light. The work as a whole exudes the contemplative serenity for which the master is renowned. The Cabinet René Millet has attributed this work to Aert van der Neer. This assessment is based on strong stylistic affinities, both in the composition and in the treatment of light, atmosphere, and moonlight effects. A major figure in 17th-century Dutch landscape painting, Aert van der Neer is today represented in the most important international collections, notably at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the National Gallery in London, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, and the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum in Madrid. His works are also found in prestigious private collections. Condition: The panel is in good overall condition. Of note is an historical alteration of the paint layer in the trees on the left side of the composition, which has now been stabilized, as well as some normal wear and restoration consistent with the work's age. This deterioration is subtle and does not affect

either the interpretation of the composition or the impressive quality of the lighting effects, which constitute the main appeal of this landscape. This work captivates with its evocative power and remarkable treatment of light, offering a nocturnal vision of rare intensity, worthy of the Dutch master's finest creations.