PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Pierre Deval (1897-1993), *young Woman With A Veil*, Watercolor On Paper, Signed, Framed



1 100 EUR

Signature : Pierre DEVAL (1897-1993)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Water color

Width : 18

Height : 25

Description

Born in 1897 in Lyon into a family of silk merchants with international connections, Pierre Deval discovered drawing at a very young age and taught himself the craft. He set up his first studio just a stone's throw from his family home, and his early studies were inspired by copying the old masters, particularly at the Musée des Moulages. He was deeply influenced by the work of Rodin, whose expressive power, the sensuality of the figures, and the purity of the lines he admired. Passionate about literature, music, and poetry, he adopted a sensitive and meditative approach to painting.After a brief stint in the military, which was cut short for health reasons, he moved to Paris in 1921 to further his artistic training. He studied at the Cormon studio and later took classes with Émile-René Ménard and

Dealer

Galerie Jeanne Bossert
Art Gallery
Mobile : 0769000386

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Lucien Simon at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière. In the capital, he moved in avant-garde circles thanks to his friend Jacques Rigaut and founded the magazine *Promenoir* alongside Jean Lacroix and Jean Epstein. Although short-lived, the magazine attracted contributions from major figures such as Cendrars, Cocteau, and Fernand Léger.In 1922, his painting *Ariane* garnered attention at the Salon and earned him a residency grant at the Villa Abd-el-Tif in Algiers. Over the course of two years, Deval explored Algeria, traveled as far south as the country's southernmost regions, and spent time in Morocco. He distanced himself, however, from the academic and colonial ethos of the Villa, asserting a personal modernity that was sometimes poorly received locally, as evidenced by the scandal caused by his painting *La Plage*. There he met Albert Marquet, with whom he became close friends.Upon his return, he married Henriette, his traveling companion, and settled in Paris on the Quai Saint-Michel, in the same building as Marquet and Jacqueline Marval.In 1925, the couple discovered the Orvès estate in La Valette-du-Var. This 18th-century country house, surrounded by gardens and springs, became their haven of peace and the center of their lives. The place attracted artists and writers: Henri Bosco, Pierre-Jean Jouve, and Willy Eisenschitz all stayed there. While living in seclusion in the Midi, Deval maintained close ties with the art scenes in Lyon and Paris. He exhibited regularly in galleries (Carmine, Druet, etc.) and participated in the Salons. Although influenced by the avant-garde, he remained faithful to a classical, refined, and sensitive style of figurative art, devoted primarily to the depiction of women. His models, often anonymous, inspired a sensual, dreamlike world tinged with Mediterranean elegance.The bankruptcy of the family business in 1930 left him without financial resources, but Deval managed to maintain the estate through commissioned portraits, which he produced

without considering them a full part of his body of work. He continued to exhibit actively throughout the 1930s, with the help of the critic and collector Georges Besson, who was his staunch supporter for two decades.During World War II, the Orvès estate was requisitioned by German forces. The couple was forced to flee, and the gardens were devastated. After the Liberation, a long restoration process began.In 1951, a falling-out with Besson distanced him permanently from Parisian circles, but Deval continued to exhibit in Toulon, Lyon, Geneva, and Aix-en-Provence. He spent the last decades of his life on his estate, surrounded by his family and a landscape he never ceased to interpret with tenderness and modesty. The Toulon Museum of Fine Arts dedicated a retrospective to him in 1971. Pierre Deval died in 1993, nearly 100 years old, in the heart of Provence, whose light and silent grace he so skillfully captured.