PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Alphonse Birck (1859-1942) - Small Fishing Port



1 200 EUR

Signature : Alphonse Birck (1859 - 1942)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Length : 20,5 cm

Width : 38 cm

Description

Alphonse Birck (1859-1942) Small Fishing PortOil on canvas, signed lower left20.5 cm x 38 cmBorn in Metz on May 25, 1859, Alphonse Étienne Birck was a French painter and watercolorist, best known for his depictions of North Africa and the Middle East. His work is part of the Orientalist movement, which flourished in France during the 19th century, fueled by travel, cultural exchanges, and European artists' interest in Mediterranean landscapes and societies.Education and Early Artistic Career At the age of sixteen, Alphonse Birck left his hometown for Paris, where he began his training at the École nationale supérieure des Arts décoratifs. He then continued his training in painting at several private art schools, immersing himself in the Parisian art

Dealer

Galerie Alexis Pentcheff
19th & 20th centuries paintings
Mobile : 0682729579

10 Chemin du Génie
Marseille 13007

scene of the late 19th century.He made his debut in official exhibitions as early as 1877, presenting a portrait of his father at the Salon des Artistes Français, according to several biographical accounts. These early years reflect his interest in portraiture and figurative painting, before his travels gradually steered him toward Orientalist subjects.Travels and the Discovery of the Orient Like many artists of his generation, Alphonse Birck was drawn to the Orient, whose landscapes and traditions held an important place in the European artistic imagination. He undertook his first trip to Algeria, which quickly became one of his main sources of inspiration.He spent time in Algiers, where he explored the streets of the Casbah, the markets, the surrounding landscapes, and scenes of daily life. These subjects fueled a prolific body of work, consisting of portraits, cityscapes, and landscapes.In the final decades of the 19th century, his travels also took him to Egypt, Palestine, and Syria. These journeys enriched his iconographic repertoire and allowed him to develop a style of painting attuned to the architecture, costumes, and atmospheres of the regions he traversed.Algeria nevertheless remained central to his work. Birck divided much of his life between Algiers and Fontainebleau, thereby maintaining close ties with France while continuing his artistic explorations in North Africa.Paintings Characterized by Light and Color Alphonse Birck's work is characterized by his focus on light, color, and the depiction of everyday scenes. His compositions reflect his interest in the effects of sunlight on architecture, landscapes, and human figures.He works in both oil painting and watercolor, a medium in which he particularly excels. The transparency of his washes and the fluidity of his brushwork allow him to capture the variations in light and the atmospheres unique to Mediterranean landscapes. His subjects are varied: market scenes, bustling streets, caravans, portraits of locals, desert landscapes, and architectural views. Although primarily associated with Orientalism, Birck also

painted French landscapes, particularly in Lorraine and Brittany.