JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

Paysage

HENRI JOSEPH HARPIGNIES

£ POA



REF: 374843

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Description

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HENRI JOSEPH HARPIGNIES 1819-1916French SchoolPaysage Oil on canvas, signed 14.8 x 32.2 cms53/4 x 125/8 ins Overall framed size 24.9 x 42.7 cms 9¾ x 167/8 ins A painter of landscapes in oil and watercolour, Harpignies was born in Valenciennes on 28th July 1819 to a family of Belgian descent. He was initially a travelling salesman for his family's sugar beet factory but had always had a burning ambition to be an artist and had taken some basic lessons in drawing. Art eventually prevailed over commerce and at the age of twenty-seven, he took what his parents deemed the rash decision to follow his instinct and passion.He took instruction from Jean-Alexis Achard (1807-1884), "…un charmant paysagiste" (Benezit) and friend of Jean Baptiste Camille Corot who, for the next two years, taught the aspirant painter the exacting discipline of draughtsmanship. Following his time in Achard's atelier, Harpignies travelled with his teacher to Cremieu and Brussels but their journey was cut short in 1848 after the outbreak of revolutions across parts of Europe, sometimes called the Springtime of the Peoples, fueled by citizens seeking the forming of liberal democracies and end to monarchial structures. The uprisings lasted until 1849 when for the most part, reactionary forces regained control and the two artists resumed their journey, going first to southern Germany and then on to Italy.This artistic expedition was particularly influential on his work where he was able to absorb the variance of light in north and south Europe and also experiment with watercolour. He had also taken a keen interest in the Barbizon school of painters which evolved in about 1830 and came about when a group of artists sought a return to realism in art as opposed to the Romantic Movement which held sway at that time.In 1824, Le Salon de Paris had staged an exhibition of Constable's paintings and his rural scenes, painted in a free and lively manner, made a significant impression on some young artists. This group, which included, Corot, Charles Francois Daubigny, Theodore Rousseau, Constant Troyon and Jules Dupre among others, gathered in and around the village of Barbizon on the edge of the Forest of Fontainebleau to the south-east of Paris. They favoured translating to canvas the landscapes of the area and scenes of peasant and rural life in distinctive tones with soft form and loose brushstrokes. The movement lasted until about 1870 but in the 1860s, it attracted the attention of a new group of artists which included Renoir, Sisley, Monet and van Gogh which in turn spawned Impressionism and Post-Impressionism.Harpignies, although never a pupil, was a great admirer of Corot above all the other Barbizon painters and his influence can be clearly discerned. Early on in his career, Harpignies concentrated on painting children in landscape settings and as his career developed, he began to imbue his works with his own personality while still displaying the fundamental tenet of the master of Ville d'Avray, as Corot is sometimes known.La Gazette des...

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