

SA1033736

The Fiddler and the Dancing Girls, 1 May 1945: Surrealist Modernist French oil on board

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1033736****Date of manufacture: 1940**

Dimensions

Height = 55 cm (21.7")

Width = 46 cm (18.1")

Depth = 1 cm (0.4")

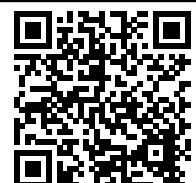
Description

This extraordinary painting was painted in Paris on May 1, 1945: the day Hitler's suicide was announced on German wireless. The French Capital had already been liberated, and May 1 was Labour Day: there were parades, notably of resistance fighters and former deportees all over town. Perhaps the joy is represented by the dancing girls - or rather, their shadow - in the picture. On the face of the fiddler, however, the trauma of wartime appears present. The painting is a work by the Surrealist Jean Lafon (b 1903) who has been unfairly treated in art history. He is the namesake of another artist called Jean Lafon, a landscape painter (b. 1886) with whom he is often confounded. "Our" Jean Lafon however has a very distinctive, poignant style, that was honed in the war years. His "Fall of Icarus" from 1944 is in the collection of the National Museum of Modern Art/Pompidou Centre in Paris. Throughout the war, the Paris had remained active. One of the foremost galleries, the Galerie Berri-Raspail where the present painting was purchased, showed exhibitions by contemporary French artists between 1941 and 1944. There, Jean Lafon showed his work alongside Modernists such as L...

Seller Details

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