

SA1056639

Gardening in summer, 1945,
the patient gardener, by French
surrealist Mathelin oil on board

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1056639

Date of manufacture: 1940

Dimensions

Height = 33 cm (13.0")

Width = 41 cm (16.1")

Depth = 1 cm (0.4")

Description

At first glance, here is a simple gardening scene, and the painting can be thoroughly enjoyed at this straightforward level. It is summer: the vegetation is lush and it is clear that our gardener has planted and tended with love, care and passion. We see him work with delight and patience.. There is an additional layer to the painting when it is put into a historical context: it is 1945. The war just ended months ago. There must have been something very strange in the return to normality, which the surrealist Lucien Mathelin is expressing in this painting. The scene feels almost dreamlike. Mathelin was born into a family of artists and received artistic training from childhood. He produced his first oil on canvas at the age of 15 in 1920. In 1924, he exhibited for a first time at the Salon d'Automne, of which he became a member. He traveled to Morocco (1925-1926) and Greece (1933-1934) in search of inspiration and in 1937 worked with Raoul Dufy on the creation of the gigantic painting La Fée Électricité . Mathelin had one man shows in France, Germany, the UK, Japan and Italy and exhibited at the Salon Comparaison, The Salon of Young Painting, the Salon des Tuileries, the...

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