

SA1129124

Masterpiece: Cubist Pop Art
Precursor Tate Gallery Artist
Fougeron Coalfield Workers,
1940s watercolour on paper

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1129124

Date of manufacture: 1950

Dimensions

Height = 47 cm (18.5")

Width = 60 cm (23.6")

Depth = 1 cm (0.4")

Description

This extraordinarily scene of three workers -two men and a woman - carrying and handling heavy loads what I presume to be coal - was painted by André Fougeron (1913-1998) in circa 1950. With a cubist influence, vigorous lines and colours, the work can almost be considered a precursor to the pop art that would emerge later in the decade. Between January and April 1950 Fougeron worked in the mining town of Lens in the Northern France, documenting the toils of workers in the coalfield in drawings and in paintings. It is possible that the present watercolour is one of the works that were created there. Already before the war, the young painter Fougeron had already started to make a reputation for himself. He exhibited with the "Indelicates", a group of radical young artists, at the Billiet-Vorms gallery. At the "super-independent" art fair, the Salon des Supindépendants, he showed political works on the subject of the Spanish Civil War. He had joined the Communist Party and was welcomed to the "Maison de la Culture", the powerhouse for a united Left front of intellectuals and artists in Paris. Mobilised, he fought in the Battle of Belgium, was caught, taken prison...

Seller Details

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