

SA1198138

Awaiting the boat, 1923: large scale study by Musée d'Orsay artist charcoal on paper drawing

Price

GBP 680

| USD \$920 | EUR 796

Item Reference: SA1198138

Date of manufacture: 1920

Dimensions

Height = 64 cm (25.2")

Width = 48 cm (18.9")

Depth = 1 cm (0.4")

Description

Having lived through the horrors of WWI (which he documented extensively), Henry de Groux's 1920s work often carries a somber, weighty presence. Our drawing from 1923 depicts a group of coastal figures— fishermen and their families— awaiting a boat. They are imbued with almost heroic gravity: de Groux depicts the working class not as victims, but as statuesque, almost biblical figures. The central figure looking upward gives the scene a sense of stoic longing. De Groux was a tempestuous figure in the Belgian and French art scenes, famously expelled from "Les XX" for refusing to exhibit alongside Van Gogh. Our drawing captures that same restless, rebellious energy. De Groux utilises a "nervous" and frantic charcoal application to build form and atmosphere, creating a scene that feels both grounded in reality and elevated by a sense of drama. Heavy chiaroscuro—achieved through dense, velvety charcoal layers—provides a remarkable sense of physical mass. Henri de Groux remains one of the most fascinating "outsiders" of the early 20th-century avant-garde. After his expulsion from Les XX, he settled in Paris in 1891. There he produced the majority of his work and associated w...

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