

SA1231178

Augusto Alberici, Corso Vittorio Emanuele, Messina, Sicily - Antique Oil Painting

Price

GBP 1,850

| USD \$2,522 | EUR 2,159

Item Reference: SA1231178

Date of manufacture: 1900

Dimensions

Height = 77 cm (30.3")

Width = 57 cm (22.4")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

This early 20th-century oil painting by Italian artist Augusto Alberici (1846-1922) depicts the Corso Vittorio Emanuele at Messina, under a brilliant Sicilian sky. Boats crowd the harbour to the left, awnings project from the sunlit buildings, horse-drawn vehicles travel along the road, and townspeople gather beneath the shade. Tramlines lead directly through the centre of the composition, carrying the eye towards the distant city. Augusto Alberici painted this view in 1902. Just six years later, much of the world depicted here was gone. On 28 December 1908, a catastrophic earthquake struck the Strait of Messina. The violent shaking was followed by a tsunami, devastating Messina and communities across the strait in Calabria and killing tens of thousands of people. Large areas of the historic city were destroyed, and the Messina that Alberici had encountered during his visit was profoundly altered. It gives this painting, with its abundant joviality and exuberance, an extraordinary additional significance. Alberici could not have known what was coming. There's no foreboding and no attempt to monumentalise the city. Indeed, the painting's value as a record derives precisely from its lack of such monumentalisation.

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Seller Details

Brave Fine Art

21 Enterprise Way Arle Road Cheltenham Cotswolds GL51 8LZ
United Kingdom Under appointment only.



Tel: 01684 215986

International Tel: +44 1684 215986