

SA713210

Cacti in Provence, the South of France, striking exhibited French expressionist ink drawing

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA713210

Date of manufacture: 1950

Dimensions

Height = 30 cm (11.8")

Width = 20 cm (7.9")

Depth = 1 cm (0.4")

Description

This expressionist drawing of cacti in Provence is striking in its sobriety, clarity and vigour - a bit like the arrière pays, the hinterland behind the Cote d'Azur coast, itself. When I acquired it, I was not surprised to learn that our original drawing had been used to adorn an exhibition poster of a one man show of the artist, Leon Sabatier, at the Galerie du Portail. Léon Sabatier (1891-1965) was an extraordinary man, whose story is worth recounting. Born into a poor family in Toulon, the port city on the mediterranean coast, he was orphaned at the age of three, and left school aged 13. Apprenticed as a painter decorator to his older sister's husband, an amateur artist in his free time, Leon developed a passion and hunger for art which led him to attend night school - and eventually to obtain a scholarship at the Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts in Paris, where he studied with the masters Luc-Olivier Merson (by whom we have a drawing for sale!) et Raphaël Collin. Léon Sabatier settled in Montparnasse, the epicentre of modern art, where he mixed with Modigliani, Derain, Kisling and others. As a young anarchist and pacifist Sabatier demonstrated against the war, but wa...

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