

**SA901788**

**Colourist Masterpiece: Woman artist circa 1905 Rodin connection, Evening Prayers in the Polish Mountains oil on canvas**

Price

**Sold**

**Item Reference: SA901788**

**Date of manufacture: 1900**

Dimensions

Height = 58 cm (22.8")

Width = 71 cm (28.0")

Depth = 1 cm (0.4")

## Description

It is always wonderful to be able to do original research on a mysterious painting by a mysterious artist. Born in Paris in 1867, Marthe Alers-Abran died tragically young in the same City, aged only 41, in 1908. She had married engineer Charles Alers in 1897, and taught drawing, like many female artists at the time. However, unlike many woman artists in her time, she gained entry to the exclusive Salon des Artistes Français, where she obtained an honourable mention in 1893 and a medal in 1896. What intrigued me about the painting by her was that there was nothing Parisian, or even French about the scene it depicts. How did she come to paint it? I think I found the answer. Marthe was not only a painter, but also a sculptor – and a very good one at that, too. I have not been able to establish to what extent she worked and studied with Rodin, but she certainly had a connection to him, her name appearing in his studio archives. And it was certainly in Rodin's studio that she met, and became friends with, fellow sculptor Sophie Postolska, a French woman of Polish origin, who was exactly the same age as she. Like Camille Claudel before her, Marthe's friend Sophie was not ...

## Seller Details

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