

SA957867

Léon Adolphe Belly, Woodland View With Pond - Antique Oil Painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA957867****Date of manufacture: 1870**

Dimensions

Height = 45 cm (17.7")

Width = 64 cm (25.2")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

This 19th-century oil painting by French artist Léon Adolphe Belly (1827-1877) depicts a woodland view with a pond and women washing clothes. It's a gentle portrayal and a far stretch from his grander 'orientalist' paintings. With relentless dedication, Belly undertook numerous exhausting missions to the expansive plains and claustrophobic heat of 19th-century North Africa where travel was debilitating, particularly for a dapper Frenchman, built for the playground of Paris. He did so in search of the 'orient', a theme in French Academic art made popular by painters such as Eugène Delacroix and Jean-Léon Gérôme. Belly's orientalist works combine a rich tapestry of colour and exquisite details. Vast horizons under a crisp heat, fully-laden camels resting under boughs, women gathering water from a river. These were the masterpieces which sang to the hanging committee of the illustrious Paris Salon. They lapped it up and his career was secured. Yet, when returning from his various travels, his work took on a different atmosphere. Away from the scorching banks of the Nile, he turned to the rich and varied topography of Fontainebleau, near Paris. These magical woods have insp...

Seller Details

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