

RAOUL DUFY (1887-1953)

Intérieur de la Ménara

Signed lower right, "Raoul Dufy" gouache and watercolor on paper 19 1/2 x 25 1/8 in. (28 1/4 x 33 5/8 x 1 1/4 in.) 1926

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PROVENANCE:

Private Collection, California

LITERATURE:

F. Guillon-Lafaille, Catalogue raisonné des dessins: Cat. Rais. Vol. 1, Paris, 1993, p. 120, no. 330

Raoul Dufy (1877-1953) was a French Fauvist painter. He developed a colorful, decorative style that became fashionable for designs of ceramics and textiles, as well as decorative schemes for public buildings. He is noted for scenes of open-air social events. He was also a draftsman, printmaker, book illustrator, Scenic designer, a designer of furniture, and a planner of public spaces. Dufy's cheerful oils and watercolors depict events of the time period, including yachting scenes, sparkling views of the French Riviera, chic parties, and musical events. The optimistic, fashionably decorative, and illustrative nature of much of his work has meant that his output has been less highly valued critically than the works of artists who have addressed a wider range of social concerns. Dufy completed one of the largest paintings ever contemplated, a huge and immensely popular ode to electricity, the fresco "La Fée Electricité" for the 1937 Exposition Internationale in Paris. Dufy also acquired a reputation as an illustrator and as a commercial artist. He painted murals for public buildings; he also produced a huge number of tapestries and ceramic designs.

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