



• VALTAT •

**LOUIS VALTAT (1869-1952)**

**Vase de coquelicots**

**(Vase of Poppies)**

Signed lower right, "L. Valtat"

oil on canvas

23 1/2 x 19 in. (31 3/4 x 27 3/8 x 2 3/4 in.)

59.69 x 48.26 cm (80.65 x 60.23 x 6.99 cm)

1931

44620

**PROVENANCE:**

Sotheby's London, Impressionist and Modern Paintings and Sculpture, Part II:  
Wednesday, December 4, 1985, Lot 234  
Private Collection, California

Louis Valtat was a French painter associated with the Fauves. Valtat is noted as a key link that accounts for the stylistic transition in painting from Monet to Matisse. Louis Valtat is considered as one of the leaders and founders of the Fauvist movement (meaning "the wild beasts" for their wild, expressionist-like use of color), which did not formally begin until 1905 at the Salon d'Automne. Valtat was involved with the most influential groups of artists, such as Auguste Renoir, Paul Signac, Georges d'Espagnat and Maximilien Luce.

Valtat spent many of his childhood years in Versailles, a suburb of Paris, where he attended secondary school at the Lycée Hoche. Encouraged by his father, an amateur landscape painter himself, Valtat became interested in art, and at age 17, deciding to pursue an artistic career, applied to the School of Fine Arts in Paris. After being accepted, in 1887, Valtat moved to Paris to enroll at the École des Beaux Arts de Paris. After the Ecole, Valtat studied at the Académie Julian under Jules Dupré (1811-1889), a landscape painter of the Barbizon school. Among his fellow students were: Albert Andre (1869-1954), who became a close friend, as well as Maurice Denis (1870-1943), Pierre Bonnard (1867-1947), and Edouard Vuillard (1868-1940), who, at that time, were members of the Nabis movement. While Valtat remained detached from that movement, he learned from them, the Gauguin method of painting which would influence his later works.

Valtat exhibited widely during his career. In 1894, Louis Valtat collaborated with both

Henri  
de Toulouse-Lautrec and Albert André in creating the decor for the Paris theater  
"L'Oeuvre"  
at the request of Lugné Poë. Valtat suffered from tuberculosis, and he spent many  
autumn/  
winter seasons along the Mediterranean coast in Banyuls, Antheor and Saint-Tropez.  
Often,  
Valtat and his family would visit Paul Signac in Bollée and Auguste Renoir at the  
Maison  
de la Poste in Cagnes. During these times, along the Mediterranean, Valtat's use of  
color  
became a major concern to him, and he began to express his Fauvist tendencies,  
particularly  
in painting seascapes.

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