



MAXIMILIEN LUCE (1858-1941)**La Couture au Jardin, Gisors 1897**

Signed lower right, "Luce"

oil on panel

12 3/4 x 16 1/4 in. (21 3/4 x 25 5/8 x 3 1/4 in.)

32.39 x 41.28 cm (55.25 x 65.09 x 8.26 cm)

1897

48086

PROVENANCE:

Private Collection

Private Collection, Europe

Sotheby's, London, June 28, 2000, lot 339

Christie's, London, February 5, 2002, lot 141

Private Collection, purchased at the above sale

LITERATURE:

This work will be included in the forthcoming catalogue raisonné of the work of Maximilien Luce being prepared by Denise Bazetoux

A painter, lithographer and draftsman, Maximilien Luce was born into a poor family in Paris on March 13, 1858. After an initial training as a wood carver at the Ecole des Arts décoratifs, he began to study engraving in 1872 and took evening courses to deepen his knowledge. In 1876 he entered the shop of the engraver Eugène Froment (1844-1900), with whom he traveled to London in 1877. After his return to Paris in 1879 Luce began his 4-year military service. During his service and later, up to 1885, he studied at the Académie Suisse and the studio of Carolus-Duran (1837-1917) at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. In his painting, he became influenced by Impressionism. In the 1880s he met and established friendly contacts with many Parisian painters, including Camille Pissarro (1830-1903), Georges Seurat (1859-1891) and Paul Signac (1863-1935). Together with them he was one of the founders of Neo-Impressionism (Pointillism).

Through Camille Pissarro Luce came under the influence of Anarchist ideas and formed friendships with the Anarchist writers and journalists Jules Christophe, Jean Grave, Georges Darien and Emile Pouget. In 1894 he became involved in the Trial of the Thirty and served a short term of imprisonment.

Luce lived in Montmartre until 1904, where he liked to paint the streets. During 1904-1924, he lived in Auteuil, then moved back to Paris. Besides street scenes, factories and wharfs, he painted numerous landscapes on his travels through the Etampes, Normandy and Brittany. During the First World War he also painted war scenes, wounded and homecoming soldiers. In 1934, Maximilien Luce was elected President of the Société des Artistes Indépendants after Signac's retirement, but soon resigned in a protest against the society's policy to restrict the admission of Jewish artists. Maximilien Luce died in Paris in 1941. He remains an important artist in Pointillism and social realism.

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