



**LOUIS VALTAT (1869-1952)**

**Allée d'arbres**

**(Tree Alley)**

Signed lower right, "LV"

oil on canvas

7 5/8 x 9 1/2 in. (15 1/4 x 17 3/8 x 2 3/4 in.)

19.37 x 24.13 cm (38.74 x 44.13 x 6.99 cm)

c. 1908

48093

**PROVENANCE:**

Private Collection, France

Paris, Drouot Estimation, June 20, 2008, lot 115

Private Collection, Europe, acquired from the above

**LITERATURE:**

This work will be included in the Catalogue of the Works of Louis Valtat, currently being prepared by the Archives of the Friends of Louis Valtat

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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