



MACCONNAL - MASON

ESTABLISHED 1893



Henri Lebasque (1865 - 1937)

Baigneuses près des Andelys

Signed, lower left: H Lebasque

Oil on canvas

21¼ x 25⅝ in – 54 x 65 cm

Frame size

30 x 34¾ in – 76.2 x 88.3 cm

Literature:

D. Bazetoux, Henri Lebasque – Catalogue raisonné, Vol.I, Arteprint, Neuilly-sur-Marne, 2008, p.134, no.394, illus. b.& w.

Artist description:

Henri Lebasque was born in Champigné, France on 25th September 1865. He studied at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris from 1885, after which he worked under the tuition of Léon Bonnat (1833-1922).

Lebasque exhibited regularly in the salons of Paris and with the artists' associations founded by Édouard Vuillard (1868-1940) and Pierre Bonnard (1867-1947). He also became well acquainted with the likes of Camille Pissarro (1830-1903), Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841-1919), Georges Seurat (1859-1891) and Paul Signac (1863-1935), all of whom influenced his work dramatically.

A group of artists that included Lebasque and Henri Matisse (1869-1954) founded the Salon d'Automne in 1903. The group held a groundbreaking exhibition two years later that would include works by artists described as "Les Fauves" (wild beasts), due to their strong colours and loose brushwork. The artists who exhibited in 1905 include Georges Rouault (1871-1958), André Derain (1880-1954) and Vuillard.

In 1924, Lebasque moved to Cagnes in the South of France where he and Bonnard worked closely with one another, even sharing the same model for a period. The influence of the South transformed Lebasque's palette significantly.

He was also commercially successful during his lifetime, assisting with the murals at the Panthéon, as well as working on the decorations in the theatre of the Champs-Élysées and of the Transatlantique sealer.

Henri Lebasque died in Cannet on 7th August 1937. Although well respected, Lebasque was rather secluded and not being in the limelight was forgotten about to a certain extent. A selection of his work was exhibited in the year of his death at the Petit-Palais in Geneva. It wasn't until 1957, some twenty years later, that a retrospective was finally put together at the Musée des Ponchettes in Nice.