Hermanus Koekkoek Snr (Middelburg 1815 - Haarlem 1882)

On the Zuider Zee

Signed, lower right: H Koekkoek

Oil on canvas

14⅞ x 22¾ in – 37.8 x 57.8 cm

Frame size

20¼ x 28¾ in – 51.4 x 73 cm

Artist description:

The name Koekkoek is synonymous with 19th century Dutch painting; it was the foremost family of painters throughout the century. Hermanus Koekkoek Snr was the youngest of four sons, to Jan Hermanus Koekkoek (1778-1851) a painter of seascapes and river scenes. A pupil of his father, Hermanus is recorded as early as 1832 working in Durgerdam.

In 1834 he worked in Amsterdam returning to Durgerdam by 1836 and following this again worked in Amsterdam the home to the majority of his patrons, until 1857. In 1840 Hermanus was elected a member of the Amsterdam Academy and the following year was also elected to the Rotterdam Academy. In the late 1850's he moved to Nieuwe Amstel, home to a number of artists but again returned to Amsterdam in 1873 where he worked for his remaining years, in 1875 being awarded the 'Arti et Amicitiae' gold medal.

Hermanus Koekkoek was primarily a painter, as was his father, of marines, river landscapes and coastal scenes. He can be termed a Romantic, which can be seen in his calm estuary scenes with shipping, and frequently, with beautifully characterised figures in the foreground. Hermanus exhibited 1832-1881 in Amsterdam, The Hague and Rotterdam and in 1876 at the Royal Academy, London. Among his pupils were Hermanus Koekkoek Jnr. (1836-1909), Johannes Hermanus Barend Koekkoek (1840-1912), Willem Koekkoek (1839-1895) and Willem Gruyter Jnr (1817-1880).

His works can be seen in museums in: Glasgow, City Art Gallery; Sheffield, Graves Art Gallery; Amsterdam, Stedelijk Museum; Courtrai; Delft, Paul Tétar van Elven Museum; Groningen; Rotterdam, Boymans Museum, Prins Hendrik Museum and Melbourne.