



MACCONNAL - MASON

ESTABLISHED 1893



Jules Leroux (1871 - 1954)

A Ballerina

Signed, lower left: *Auguste Leroux*

Oil on canvas

18 $\frac{1}{8}$ x 15 in – 46 x 38 cm

Frame size

23 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ in - 60.4 x 52.7 cm

Artist description:

Jules Marie Auguste Leroux, commonly known as Auguste Leroux, was a distinguished French painter, illustrator and draughtsman whose career spanned the Belle Époque and first half of the 20th century. Particularly admired for his accomplished figure drawings, elegant portraits and depictions of dancers, Leroux combined the discipline of academic training with a refined sensitivity to line, gesture and movement.

Born in Paris in 1871, Leroux studied at the École des Arts Décoratifs before entering the École des Beaux-Arts, where he worked under Léon Bonnat. His early training instilled a rigorous approach to drawing and figure study that remained fundamental to his work throughout his career. In 1894, he was awarded the prestigious Prix de Rome for painting, one of the highest distinctions available to a young French artist, enabling him to continue his studies at the Villa Médicis in Rome (1895-8).

Following his return to Paris, Leroux exhibited regularly at the Salon des Artistes Français. His work received recognition at the 1900 Exposition Universelle, where he was awarded a bronze medal, and his growing standing was further acknowledged by his appointment as a Chevalier of the Légion d'honneur.

Alongside painting, Leroux developed a successful career as an illustrator, producing illustrations for literary works by major authors including Balzac, Flaubert, Stendhal and Anatole France.

In the later decades of his career, Leroux increasingly focused on the female figure, particularly portraits and representations of ballet. His depictions of dancers, whether performing or observed in rehearsal and moments of repose, combine the decorative refinement of Belle Époque Paris with the formal discipline of his academic training, evident in his carefully constructed figures, expressive poses and sensitive handling of costume, colour and light.

Leroux also worked on religious and monumental projects, including designs associated with the Basilica of the Sacré-Coeur in Paris. From 1906 to 1939, he taught at the École des Beaux-Arts, passing the principles of academic drawing to a new generation of artists.

Auguste Leroux died in Paris in 1954.

His works are represented in a number of important collections including the Victoria & Albert Museum, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Dijon, Musée Carnavalet-Histoire de Paris and Musée d'Orsay.