

JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

Château d'Eau
JEAN LURÇAT

Sold



Description

JEAN LURÇAT 1892 -1966 French School Château d'Eau Oil on panel, signed and dated 27 38 x 46 cms 15 x 18 1/8 inches

Jean Lurçat was a most interesting and influential artist and designer of tapestries, ceramics, and carpets, who was born in Bruyères in the Vosges region of France on 1st July 1892.

He undertook his artistic training initially in Nancy under the instruction of the painter, sculptor, stage designer and print maker Victor Prouvé and then, after moving to Paris in 1912, at L'École des Beaux-Arts and then at L'Académie Colorassi under Bernard Naudin who was a designer, painter and engraver. Whilst in Paris at this time he moved in the circles of Ludwig Marcoussis and Picasso and consequently his earliest influences were those of Cubism.

In 1913, Lurçat became interested in the problems inherent in wall painting and undertook some frescos but he was also involved in illustration work. He provided the artwork for Philippe Soupault's "A la Dérive" and "Corps Perdu" and for Charles-Albert Cingria's "Les Limbes". "Toupiés et Baroques" was a work entirely written and illustrated by Lurçat himself. He also founded his own review in 1912, Les Feuilles de Mai, which included contributions by a number of people as well as Lurçat himself in which he investigated the positive effect of art on life.

The advent of the First World War resulted in the young artist being mobilised for the defence of his country. He saw active service in the infantry, was wounded and recuperated at the home of his parents in Sens, but his ardent pacifism and the publication of some of his poems and articles in foreign journals, caused him to be imprisoned for a brief period. With the cessation of hostilities, he was free to travel and he took the opportunity to visit Austria, Germany, Sicily and Spain in 1919, the Sahara and Spain again in 1924, Italy, Greece and Asia Minor in 1927, Spain 1928, United States, Greece and the Sahara in 1929 and between 1933 and 1934, he revisited the USA and also went to Morocco.

His first exhibition was staged in Zurich in 1917 and showed the impact of Cubism on his development, particularly the work of Georges Braque. Some of this early work was later reproduced as tapestries by the Hennebert workshops in Toulon. In 1920 he travelled to Munich and Berlin and the influences of those two cities steered him in the direction of Expressionism.

Lurcat had, from early in his career, also been closely linked with the Surrealist Movement and this had been a strong influence on the work which he had exhibited at Le Salon des Indépendants and Le Salon des Tuileries from 1920. His paintings show how he managed to conjoin the primary influences of Cubism, Expressionism and Surrealism to form a most individual style.

However as a consequence of his travels in Europe, North Africa and America, the strong impressions that the desert landscapes in particular had made on him, supplanted to a certain extent the dominance of his Surrealist leanings. From henceforward, his paintings...