

KUNSTHANDEL A.H. BIES



Bomschuiten op zee

Olieverf op doek 69 x 48,5 cm
Gesigneerd rechtsonder 'H W Mesdag'

Hendrik Willem Mesdag - *Groningen 1831 – 1915 The Hague*

Although Hendrik Willem Mesdag began his artistic career relatively late, within a few years he won one of the highest awards which a painter could obtain: a gold medal at the Paris Salon. From that time, the reputation of Mesdag was shaped considerably. His works are still the most sought-after works from the Hague School, on a national and international level.

Mesdag was not just a talented artist, but also a prosperous and influential man. He held important administrative positions in the Hollandsche Teekenmaatschappij (Dutch drawing company), and at Pulchri Studio he stimulated exhibitions in and art sales to the United States, produced a sizeable collection himself. Together with his wife Sientje Mesdag-Van Houten, who was also a painter, he started his own museum in The Hague: the Museum Collection (formerly known as Museum Mesdag).

What makes Mesdag's works so special is the depiction of the sky, the sea and the atmosphere. His skies are always elaborated, whether there are many or few clouds in the sky. Like many painters from the Hague School, Mesdag initially used slightly finer brushstrokes and later moved to wider brushstrokes. He had a feeling for light, colour and nuance. A soft evening atmosphere in a warm palette, a radiant midday sun against a blue sky or a raging wind out at sea: with Mesdag, you can almost feel what the weather was like. The same applies to the water. His gently rippling little waves are not less elaborated than a furious swirling sea. It is that reflection of the sun on the ripples of the water or the typical movement of the incoming and outgoing tide, which Mesdag succeeded in depicting so accurately.

Works in museum collections

Rijksmuseum (Amsterdam), Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam), Scheepvaartmuseum (Amsterdam), Van Gogh Museum (Amsterdam), Gemeentemuseum (Arnhem), Drents Museum (Assen), Koninklijke Museum voor Schone Kunsten van België (Brussels), Fitzwilliam Museum (Cambridge UK), Harvard University Art Museums (Cambridge, Massachusetts), Cleveland Museum of Art (Cleveland, Ohio), Dordrechts Museum (Dordrecht), National Gallery of Ireland (Dublin), Rijksmuseum Twenthe (Enschede), Musée National de Chateau Fontainebleau (Fontainebleau), Groninger Museum (Groningen), Kunstmuseum (The Hague), Panorama Mesdag (The Hague), Mesdag Collectie (The Hague), Frans Hals Museum (Haarlem), Teyler's Museum (Haarlem), Gemeentemuseum (Kampen), Singer Museum (Laren), Fries Museum (Leeuwarden), British Museum (London), Currier Museum of Art (Manchester NH), Zeeuws Museum (Middelburg), Ball State University (Muncie, Indiana), Brooklyn Museum (New York), Montreal Museum of Fine Art (Montreal), Museum Jan Cunen (Oss), National Gallery of Canada (Ottawa), Ashmolean Museum (Oxford), Musée d'Orsay (Paris), Ditsong National Museum of Natural History (Pretoria), Museum Boijmans van Beuningen (Rotterdam), Centraal Museum (Utrecht), Spoorwegmuseum (Utrecht), National Gallery of Art (Washington D.C.).