PAN
AMSTERDAM

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Place de la Concorde, Paris

Oil on canvas | Signed Jean Dufy (lower left) | H 54 x W 73 cm

Viewed from an elevated position, the famous Place de la Concorde unfolds like a colorful tapestry. At the center rises the ancient Egyptian Luxor Obelisk, surrounded by the square's monumental fountains, open spaces, and lively urban activity. Beyond the square, the grand façades of the Hôtel de Crillon and the Hôtel de la Marine frame the entrance to the Rue Royale, while the distant silhouette of the Sacré-Cœur Basilica crowns the hill of Montmartre.

Place de la Concorde, Paris is a vibrant and atmospheric depiction of one of Paris's most celebrated public squares. In this enchanting composition, the famous French painter Jean Dufy captures the elegance, energy, and architectural grandeur of the French capital through his distinctive use of color, expressive brushwork, and playful perspective.

Dufy transforms this recognizable Parisian panorama into a poetic celebration of light and movement. Delicate shades

of turquoise, azure blue, lavender, rose, and soft green create a luminous atmosphere, while lively touches of red, yellow, and deep blue animate the composition. The buildings, monuments, and figures are rendered with spontaneous, almost calligraphic brushstrokes, giving the painting a wonderful sense of rhythm and vitality.

Rather than concentrating on precise architectural detail, Dufy seeks to convey the spirit of Paris. His elevated viewpoint creates a sweeping panorama in which the city appears simultaneously monumental and intimate. The loosely defined figures and vehicles suggest the constant movement of metropolitan life, while the expansive blue sky lends the scene an impression of openness and tranquility.

The painting reflects Jean Dufy's characteristic combination of modern artistic freedom and an enduring affection for the beauty of everyday life. With its harmonious colors, decorative qualities, and joyful atmosphere, Place de la Concorde, Paris, from Above is a captivating tribute to the timeless charm of Paris.

Jean Dufy was a distinguished French painter celebrated for his colorful, lyrical interpretations of Parisian life, landscapes, musical performances, and scenes of popular entertainment. Born on 12 March 1888 in Le Havre, Normandy, he grew up in a family with strong artistic and musical interests. He was the younger brother of the renowned painter Raoul Dufy (1877–1953), whose artistic achievements played an important role in his early development.

Jean Dufy discovered his passion for modern painting after encountering works by Henri Matisse and other avant-garde artists at an exhibition in Le Havre in 1906. He moved to Paris in 1912, where he became acquainted with the artistic circles of Montmartre and encountered the work of leading modernists, including Georges Braque, André Derain, and Pablo Picasso.

Although initially influenced by his brother Raoul and the revolutionary developments of Fauvism and Cubism, Jean gradually established his own distinctive artistic identity. His paintings are characterized by fluid drawing, delicate yet energetic brushwork, rhythmic compositions, and an exceptional sensitivity to color. Blue, in particular, became one of his favorite colors, frequently dominating his atmospheric views of Paris.

Dufy exhibited extensively in France and internationally, particularly in the United States, where his paintings attracted considerable attention and appreciation. His artistic career continued to flourish throughout the 1950s, enriched by travels across Europe and North Africa.

Jean Dufy died on 12 May 1964 in La Boissière, near Boussay, France. Today, he is recognised as an important figure in twentieth-century French painting, admired for his individual artistic language and his ability to transform familiar scenes into compositions filled with light, elegance, and joie de vivre.