

RAOUL DUFY

(Le Havre 1877–1953 Forcalquier)

Paysage en Normandie ou Le Poirier. 1930.

Oil on canvas.

Signed lower center: Raoul Dufy.

60 x 73 cm.

Provenance: - Collection Dr. Jean-Roch Helg, Geneva/Délémont, bought directly from the artist. - Private collection Switzerland, by descent to the present owners. Exhibition: Délémont 1989, Trésors des collections jurassiennes de Courbet à Dufy, Musée jurassien d'art et d'histoire, 17 June - 3 September 1989, p. 148, no. 41 (with ill., as well on the cover of the exhibiton catalogue.). Literature: - Laffaille, Maurice: Raoul Dufy. Catalogue rasionné de l'oeuvre peint, vol. II, Geneva 1973, p. 300,

no. 790 (with ill.). - Jean, René: Raoul Dufy, Paris 1931, p. 31. In 1900, thanks to a scholarship from the city of Le Havre, Raoul Dufy moved to Paris, where he was accepted into the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts. He first exhibited his works in 1901 at the Salon des Artistes Français and in 1903 at the Salon des Indépendants. Raoul Dufy was deeply impressed by Matisse and joined the Fauves with heart and soul. Like Matisse, he quickly developed and found his own style. Initially without great financial success, he also undertook a large amount of work in the applied arts, such as textile design and ceramics. From the middle of the 1920s, however, he began to receive his great breakthrough as a recognised artist. His style was established by then. The present work originates from this high point of Raoul Dufy's career. He created works in his newly found style, which he then executed with great certainty. This can be clearly seen in the pear tree, for example, which is depicted only by a variety of strokes and dominates the scene of this Norman landscape. The massive tree trunk rises through the middle of the composition and the treetop forms the upper border of the picture. Only a cluster of individual dots symbolically indicates probably lush fruit, thus showing the pears. Raoul Dufy's roots were here. He created his most personal works from Normandy and enjoyed showing the peaceful, nature-connected and rural scenes of this region. At the 1937 World Exhibition in Paris, Raoul Dufy, together with his brother Jean, created the largest painting of the world at the time out of 250 canvases for the "Pavillon de la Lumière". In 1952, the Musée d'art et d'histoire de Genève organised the most important exhibition of his work. The major art historian Jean Cassou said of Dufy: "He was a magician [...] a creator, equal in power, invention, boldness, reflection, clarity and determination to the four or five very greats who created modern art and made modern art one of the great styles of all time ".

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