

Lot 1273



Auction **Fine Art**

Date 17.11.2023, ca. 15:55

Preview 10.11.2023 - 10:00:00 bis
13.11.2023 - 18:00:00

FREY, JOHANN JAKOB
1813 Basel - 1865 Frascati

Title: View of Rome from Monte Mario along the Tiber Valley.

Technique: Oil on canvas.

Mounting: Relined.

Measurement: 100 x 137cm.

Notation: Signed and dated lower right: J.J. Frey / Roma 1846.

Frame: Framed.

Provenance:

Auction Lempertz, Cologne, 14.05.1995;
since private ownership, Germany.

In 1836, ten years before this impressive painting was created, the Basel-born landscape painter Johann Jakob Frey had settled in Rome. He found classical landscape motifs on extensive hikes in the Roman countryside together with his artist colleagues Joseph Anton Koch, Johann Christian Reinhardt or Martin von Rohden. He made drawings and sketches on site, which Frey then turned into large paintings in his studio. And his works were very well received by the public, especially English and German tourists from the highest social circles.

Frey's popularity increased even more after he took part in the Prussian expedition to Egypt led by the archaeologist Professor Richard Lepsius from 1842 to 1845. Now his studio became a magnet for foreign visitors who bought his exotic travel impressions from Egypt and Greece. But Roman motifs also continued to be extremely popular.

The view of the "Eternal City" shown here from Monte Mario was taken precisely at this time after Frey's return to Rome. The landscape slopes gently; the gaze is drawn to the turquoise of the loop of the Tiber. There, in the distance, is the familiar silhouette of the metropolis with all its recognisable buildings. The river valley lies in a light haze; the nearby landscape elements, the towering pine trees and the figural staffages are bathed in a warm light by the low sun. The impact of the Egyptian trip on Frey's style and on his choice of colours is clearly evident in this painting.

This motif was so popular with the public that Johann Jakob Frey painted at least two more versions of the view of Rome from Monte Mario that we still know today.

Estimate: 30.000 € - 40.000 €, Hammer: 55.000 €

