



August Wilhelm Leu

1819-1897

Marina Piccola Bay, Capri

Oil on canvas / Signed and dated 1864 lower right

Dimensions : 74 x 104 cm

Dimensions : 29.13 x 40.94 inch



Biography

Born in Munster, Leu is allowed in the Academy of Düsseldorf in 1840. He follows the teaching of Johann Wilhelm Schirmer in class of landscapes paintings until 1844. At first, he works as engraver to Königsberg. However, profoundly influenced by the teaching of Schirmer, he goes to perfect in his art of the landscape by going to visit Norway in 1843 and in 1847, Switzerland, Tirol and especially Italy in 1847.

Afer a stay in Brussels, he gets back to Düsseldorf and becomes established definitively in Berlin in 1882. He becomes in the same date a honorary member of the Academy of Berlin. He is also a professor to the Academies of Vienna, Brussels and Amsterdam.

Recognized by his peers, he receives the "Prussian Gold medal for art" and is decorated of the order of Leopold. He obtains honourable mentions in 1855 and in 1863 in the World Fair of Paris, before participating in it again in 1878.

His landscapes are characterized by a very romantic vision of the Alps, the fjords and the lakes, populated with ornamental figures, typical of the School of Düsseldorf. This romanticism is translated by the spiritual escape leading to the beautiful and to the picturesque; it is the return to the nature, in Italy, in the Renaissance. Wilhelm Leu particularly knows well how to describe this nature and its lighting effects, as well in the brilliances of the water as in the treatment of the sun leaking out through the clouds.

In this view of Capri, he describes Marina Piccola, the place of Southern collision of the island, situated in a picturesque bay at feet of the steep slopes of the Mount Solaro. The town gives on Marina di Pennaulo in the East, and on Marina di Mulo on the West. Till the end of the XIXth century, it included a small cluster of houses of fishermen situated over two small beaches of gravel near the ancient place of collision of Roman origin and the famous Rock of Sirens, dedicated to the mythical enchantresses by the popular voice.

Museums

Brême

Breslau

Hanovre

Kaliningrad

Oslo

Stuttgart

Vienne

Bibliography

E. Benezit " Dictionnaire des Peintres, Sculpteurs, Dessinateurs et Graveurs "

G.Schurr " Dictionnaire des Petits Maîtres de la Peinture "