



Georges Lacombe

1868-1916

The Oak Tree, Forest of Écouves

Oil on canvas / signed and dated 1904 lower right

Dimensions : 92,3 x 67,5 cm

Dimensions : 36.22 x 26.38 inch



Biography

Georges Lacombe was born in Versailles in 1868. His father, friend and former secretary of Lamartine, was a journalist and practiced woodcarving in his free time, while his mother was a skillful painter. She provided him with artistic training and a strict education at Saint-Jean-de-Bethune in Versailles. He joined the Académie Julian in 1890 where he was taught by Alfred Philippe Roll, Georges Bertrand and Henri Gervex.

Every summer from 1888 to 1897, Lacombe was in Camaret in Finistère, where he met many artists like Paul Sérusier in 1892. Sérusier made a fresco in Lacombe's studio in Versailles. Georges Lacombe quickly joined the group of Nabis painters and exhibited two wood carvings with them at Le Brac de Boutteville in 1893. The same year, during his exhibition in the Gallery Durand-Ruel, he met Paul Gauguin who strongly influenced his work.

From 1895, Georges Lacombe participated in the Salon de la Société des Artistes Indépendants. He also exhibited in the eleventh exhibition of "Peintres Impressionnistes et Symbolistes".

Until these exhibitions, Georges Lacombe, nicknamed the "Nabi Sculptor", mainly exhibited carved wood. Painting allowed him to develop new subjects. With a mystical alliance of mauve, violet and gold, he represented forests at sunset and trees in autumn. Influenced by Symbolism and Japonism, his works revealed a great poetry. Lacombe settled in 1898 in Saint-Nicolas-des-Bois where he made around a hundred paintings depicting the forest of Ecouves.

His meeting with the Belgian painter Van Risselberghe in 1904 influenced his technique to tend towards post-impressionism.

Suffering from tuberculosis during World War I, he died prematurely in 1916. It was only in 1924, during a major retrospective at the Balzac Gallery, that his paintings were finally exhibited.

Museums

Musée d'Orsay

Palais des Beaux-Arts de Lille

Musée des Beaux-Arts de Quimper

Musée des Beaux-Arts de Brest

Musée Lambinet, Versailles

Musée d'art Moderne du Petit Palais, Genève

Indianapolis Museum of Art

Salt Lake City, Utah Museum of Fine Arts

Bibliography

Maurice Denis Musée Départemental " Les Univers de Georges Lacombe " Silvana Editoriale