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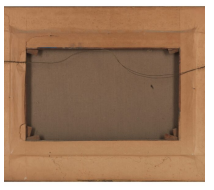
Circle of Johannes Hermanus Koekkoek: Pair of Early 19th Century Seascapes

£4,850

A fine pair of early 19th century seascapes from the circle of Johannes Hermanus Koekkoek (17 August 1778 – 9 January 1851) each showing ships and small sailing boats in choppy waters, one with keg being tossed in the waves and the with a windmill on the shoreline; all beneath dramatic skies. Oil on canvas. Presented in gilt-wood frames.

SKU: C4509
Height: excluding frame 30.5 cm (12 inches). Including frame 44 cm
Width: excluding frame 45.5 cm (18 inches). Including frame 59 cm
Year: Dutch. Circa 1820s



Johannes Hermanus Koekkoek (17 August 1778 – 9 January 1851)

The founding father of what would become the famous Koekkoek Painting Family. He and his wife, Anna née Koolwijk, had four sons who all became painters: Barend Cornelis, Marinus Adrianus, Johannes II, and Hermanus. Most of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren would also follow careers in art.

Around 1800, he left his home and moved to Middelburg. There, he found work at a carpet and wallpaper factory owned by Thomas Gaal, a decorative painter, who gave him his first lessons. He also took classes at the Middelburg Drawing Academy, where he studied with plaster models and learned engraving. In 1803, he was honored with the title, "Primus van de Academie".

Following his education, he worked as an art teacher, but soon decided to become a free-lance artist. In 1826, he moved to Durgerdam, near Amsterdam, where he would live and work until 1833. He initially combined seascapes and cityscapes but, in his later years, focused entirely on ocean scenes. Much of his inspiration came from the painters of the Dutch Golden Age. His style was essentially Realistic, but also showed elements of the newer Romantic aesthetic. Rather than merely paint ships, he also learned as much as he could about the different types.

In 1833, he moved into Amsterdam, but also worked in Medemblik and Katwijk aan Zee. He died in Amsterdam, aged seventy-two. His works may be seen at the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, the Dordrechts Museum, and the Museum Jan Cunen in Oss. In his own lifetime,

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many of his paintings were sold to collectors in Germany and England.

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