

News Release

Stair Galleries - 549 Warren St. - Hudson, NY 12534

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FIRST TIME IN 100 YEARS AT STAIR GALLERIES APRIL 22, 2006

On April 22, 2006, Stair Galleries will present a group of paintings from an important collection originally assembled by Thomas Van Loan of Athens New York. It is the first time paintings from this collection have been available at auction in over one hundred years.

Many large works, principally oil paintings on canvas by European painters of the Barbizon and romantic Landscape traditions such as: Dubufe, Kels, Marie De Garay, Montalant, Potthast, Tojetti and Wagner will be auctioned. In addition, representative works from the American landscape and Hudson River School styles including, Joseph Boston, Chapin, Cozzens, Kels, Moran, Shattuck and Sheppard will be offered in conjunction with other important and fine paintings.

Van Loan was a prominent spice and coffee merchant who sold his Brooklyn residence in 1911 and dispatched his large and valuable collection of paintings and objets d'art, to his ancestral home in Athens, New York, in effect, creating a private museum. He had the good fortune of having ample assets during New York's Gilded Age. An habitu  of the leading New York City auction houses of the day, he assembled the lion's share of his collection, from 1885, to 1911.

This was the era of Mrs. Astor's 400 and Van Loan competed with individuals like Guggenheim and Vanderbilt and dealers like Duveen, Knoedler, Durand-Ruel and Vose to purchase paintings from estate sales from the most distinguished New York families including, Havermeyers, Hiltons, Millikens, Morgans, Roosevelts and Stebbinses.

A man of his time, Van Loan's collection resonates the era's vogue for an idealized, romantic, landscape vision. Most of the sales he attended included paintings from the French landscape and Barbizon Schools started by Theodore Rousseau and Jean-Francois Millet, as well as the contemporaneous American Landscape tradition and Hudson River School artists including Bierstadt, Blakelock, Chase, Cropsey, Innes, Moran and others.

Although we don't know the exact inventory of the original collection, (some paintings were dispersed in the 1960's), the collection included pictures by Frederick Church, Thomas Cole, Cropsey and George Inness. We also know, many of the works appearing in the current sale, most notably the Dubufe, Kels, Montalant, Tojetti, Potthast and Wagner were purchased at auctions where paintings by the most notable artists of the Barbizon, Hudson River and Impressionist schools, were sold. Indeed, one of the paintings in this sale, an oil on canvas by

Virgilio Tojetti, entitled, "The Dancing Lesson," appears in a catalogue of the sale of the estate of Mr. George M. Tyner, conducted by the American Art Galleries. The Tojetti is listed in sequence with a Claude Monet, Alfred Sisley and Camille Pissarro.