

44 **SYDNEY LOUGH THOMPSON**

1877 - 1973

*On the Foreshore, Concarneau* - Circa 1922

Oil on canvas 46 x 61

Signed

40,000 - 60,000

Provenance:

Private Collection, Canada since 1948

On the market for the first time since

After making a grand tour of Italy with a group of American students, Thompson made his way to Brittany. He intended to stay there for the summer, before returning to Paris. Concarneau became his base for the remainder of his stay.

Over the years the region attracted artists from around the world. Frances Hodgkins, Paul Gauguin and Claude Monet, to name a few. Rapid changes in city life resulting from modernisation, commercial and industrial expansion led to the creation in the last decades of the 19th century of a rural ideal, a life lived close to nature. To the artist, ports were not inanimate, but living places which appeared to absorb and express the personalities of the sailors and fishermen who made and used them.

In his work, Thompson evolved a technique which made a direct statement. He worked to identify colour with tone so that each supported the other.

Sydney Lough Thompson died in 1973. He is buried in the cemetery at Concarneau, not far from where he painted this picture, believed to be one of the finest examples offered in recent times.

*"Sometimes in a day up to 300 tunny boats would arrive and that meant between 1,400 to 2,000 fishermen from all parts of the coast living crowded on the wharves and in the cafes. Men excited by having made a big catch or by not having caught anything."*

Sydney Thompson

