

Fishing Boats at the Shoreline, circa 1890

William Dommersen

\$3,950



REF: 2356

Height: 55.86 cm (22")

Description

William Raymond Dommersen

Dutch, 1850-1920

Fishing Boats at the Shoreline, circa 1890

Oil on canvas

Signed lower right

A charming late 19th-century Dutch coastal scene by William Raymond Dommersen, one of the best-known members of the Dommersen family of painters, celebrated for their accomplished views of harbours, canals, and animated waterside life. Painted circa 1890, this work captures a peaceful shoreline moment, with two fishing boats drawn up beside a narrow landing place while figures disembark in the foreground. Beyond, a sunlit town rises delicately across the water, its church tower punctuating the skyline and lending the composition both atmosphere and architectural interest.

Dommersen was especially admired for his ability to combine marine painting with picturesque townscape, and that talent is clearly evident here. The calm expanse of water, broken only by small rowing craft and soft reflections, is handled with confidence and sensitivity. The tall sails provide a strong vertical accent within the composition, while the clear sky and silvery light create the serene, luminous quality so closely associated with the Dutch maritime tradition.

The painting is pleasingly balanced, with the intimate foreground activity leading the eye naturally toward the distant town. It is a work that possesses both decorative appeal and genuine period character, evoking the quiet industry and enduring beauty of 19th-century Holland's waterways and fishing communities.

William Raymond Dommersen exhibited widely and is well represented in collections and the marketplace, with his pictures remaining sought after for their elegance, detail, and unmistakable Dutch atmosphere. This example is particularly attractive for its freshness of palette, gentle light, and well-observed composition.

Presented in an impressive and highly decorative period-style frame, the painting would make a handsome addition to any collection of 19th-century European marine or landscape painting, and would sit beautifully in both traditional and country house interiors.