

Early 20th century Impressionist, Harbor scene with fishing boats  
Gustave De Keukelaere

\$3,950



REF: 2376

Height: 69.82 cm (27.5")

Width: 90.13 cm (35.5")

## Description

Gustave De Keukelaere (Belgian, 1888-1966)

Belgian Fishing Port with Sailing Boats

Oil on canvas, circa 1930

Signed lower right

Gustave De Keukelaere was a highly accomplished Belgian painter renowned for his evocative marine landscapes, coastal scenes and views of the bustling fishing communities that lined the North Sea coast during the first half of the twentieth century. Working during a period when the artistic traditions of Belgian Impressionism continued to flourish, De Keukelaere became admired for his ability to capture the ever-changing effects of light upon water, the atmosphere of working harbours and the enduring character of Belgium's maritime heritage. His paintings celebrate the hardworking fishing communities of ports such as Ostend, Nieuwpoort and Blankenberge, where generations of fishermen relied upon the sea for their livelihood.

This beautifully executed harbour scene perfectly encapsulates the artist's mature style. In the foreground, a traditional wooden fishing boat rests quietly against a stone quay, its richly coloured brown sail furled after a day's work upon the water. Nearby, another fishing vessel lies beached at the water's edge, laden with nets and equipment awaiting the next tide. Beyond, a small flotilla of sailing craft anchors peacefully within the sheltered harbour, their masts and sails silhouetted against an expansive sky filled with soft, drifting clouds.

De Keukelaere's confident brushwork and subtle understanding of colour create a composition filled with movement and atmosphere. Delicate reflections shimmer across the calm harbour waters, while touches of pale blue, silver, rose and green capture the changing coastal light with remarkable sensitivity. The weathered stone quay, rocky shoreline and gently rolling coastline beyond are rendered with an impressionistic freedom that conveys both the freshness of the sea air and the quiet rhythm of a traditional fishing port.

Although firmly rooted in the Belgian Impressionist tradition, the painting possesses a distinctly personal character. Rather than concentrating solely on the vessels themselves, De Keukelaere masterfully evokes the harmony between man, sea and landscape, presenting a scene that is both documentary and deeply poetic. The carefully balanced composition, with its commanding foreground vessel leading the eye across the harbour towards the distant shoreline, demonstrates the artist's exceptional understanding of design and perspective.

Painted around 1930, this fine oil on canvas represents an excellent example of Gustave De Keukelaere's sought-after marine paintings. Combining strong decorative appeal with historical significance, it celebrates the rich maritime traditions of Belgium and would make a distinguished addition to any collection of Belgian Impressionism, European marine painting or early twentieth-century coastal art.