DB FA DAVID BROOKER FINE ART

19th Century English Horse anf Foal in a landscape

George Henry Laporte

$6,500

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REF: 2374

Height: 85.06 cm (33.5")

Width: 97.75 cm (38.5")

Description

George Henry Laporte (1799-1873)
Horse and Foal in a Landscape with a Country House
Signed and dated 1844, lower centre
Oil on canvas
Presented in its original period giltwood frame

George Henry Laporte ranks amongst the foremost British sporting artists of the first half of the nineteenth century, celebrated for his refined depictions of horses and his ability to combine precise anatomical accuracy with elegant landscape settings. A pupil of the renowned sporting painter John Frederick Herring and influenced by the traditions established by George Stubbs, Laporte exhibited regularly at the Royal Academy, the British Institution, and the Society of British Artists. His patrons included members of the British aristocracy, landed gentry, and distinguished breeders, who commissioned portraits of their finest bloodstock during the golden age of English horse breeding.

Painted in 1844, this charming composition epitomises Laporte's mature style. A magnificent bay broodmare stands protectively beside her young foal upon gently rolling pasture, both rendered with exceptional sensitivity and anatomical precision. The mare's poised stance conveys dignity and maternal calm, while the inquisitive foal provides a delightful counterpoint, capturing the optimism and vitality of youth. Laporte's remarkable understanding of equine structure is evident in every carefully observed contour, from the powerful musculature of the mare to the delicate, long-legged elegance of the foal.

Beyond the figures, the artist creates an idyllic English landscape bathed in soft afternoon light. On the distant rise sits an imposing Palladian country house, its classical façade overlooking expansive parkland and a tranquil stretch of water. Such grand estates frequently formed the backdrop to commissioned sporting portraits, subtly celebrating both the owner's distinguished residence and the quality of their prized breeding stock. The broad sky, filled with luminous clouds, lends an atmosphere of serenity and grandeur, balancing the intimate relationship between mare and foal with the timeless beauty of the English countryside.

The painting displays the crisp draughtsmanship and restrained palette for which Laporte became highly regarded, qualities that distinguish his finest equestrian works. Retaining its impressive original richly carved giltwood frame, the picture possesses outstanding decorative appeal while representing an excellent example of mid-nineteenth-century British sporting art. Combining equine portraiture, landscape painting, and the prestige of the English country estate, this elegant work would make a distinguished addition to any collection of sporting, equestrian, or traditional British paintings.

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