

Vincent van Gogh's *Paysanne devant une Chaumière* to lead
Dickinson's highlights at TEFAF Maastricht 2020

Stand 402 | TEFAF Maastricht | 7 - 15 March 2020

Dickinson | 58 Jermyn Street, London | 980 Madison Avenue, New York



Vincent van Gogh (1853 - 1890) *Paysanne devant une Chaumière* (*Peasant Woman in front of a Farmhouse*), July 1885
oil on canvas, 62.9 x 112.4 cm

Dickinson Gallery is delighted to announce that they will again feature an important painting by Vincent van Gogh on their stand at TEFAF 2020. *Paysanne devant une Chaumière* (*Peasant Woman in front of a Farmhouse*), a view of peasant cottages painted in Brabant in July of 1885, is noteworthy for its fortuitous rediscovery in the mid-20th century as well as for its appealingly large scale, brightening palette, lively brushwork and prominent signature.

"We are delighted to once more bring a Van Gogh painting to TEFAF Maastricht. It is particularly fitting that one of the largest and most important Van Gogh landscapes from the Dutch period, rarely seen in public, and carrying a fascinating English provenance, will be exhibited in the Netherlands by an English gallery."

– Emma Ward, Managing Director

In the summer of 1885 Van Gogh was living in Nuenen in the Brabant region, where his attention was captured by the picturesque, thatched-roof peasant cottages dotting the countryside. Works from this period show the development of Van Gogh's characteristic thick impasto technique, which lends texture to the cottage roofs and depth to the grooves in the muddy path. The sapling, with its clusters of leaves, anticipates the iconic poplars Van Gogh went on to paint just a few years later in Arles. While many of Van Gogh's Dutch period landscapes feature overcast skies and a largely monochrome palette, *Paysanne devant une Chaumière* offers blue skies on a sunny summer day.

Paysanne devant une Chaumière was most likely one of the works Van Gogh sent to his supplier of frames and colours, Wilhelmus Leurs in The Hague, in hopes of settling his mounting debts. It is not known how the painting reached an English collection by the 1920s, but in 1968 the Italian journalist Dr. Luigi Grosso made an extraordinary find in a Hampstead antique shop, purchasing the painting for just £45. Dr. Grosso, struck by his new painting's resemblance to works he had seen recently at a Van Gogh exhibition, contacted Alan Bowness – then at the Courtauld Institute, later Director of the Tate Gallery – who was able to authenticate the work. X-ray technology added to scholarship: scans revealed a painting underneath a painting, with the earlier composition, featuring a ploughman, corresponding closely with an existing Van Gogh drawing.

Paysanne devant une Chaumière has remained in the same private collection for nearly two decades, and has only been formally shown in public on one previous occasion, at the Royal Academy in London in 2010.

Notes to Editors

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