

19TH C. SPANISH OIL PAINTING OF CATTLE SIGNED ANTONIO CORTES IN GILTWOOD FRAME

$4,900

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This exceptional 19th-century oil painting depicts a tranquil herd of cattle watering along a shaded stream, attended by a lone sheepdog beneath a dramatic sky. Signed A. Cortes at lower right, the work reflects the artist's masterful balance of naturalistic detail, tonal harmony, and plein-air technique. The atmospheric rendering, richly textured brushwork, and evocative sky firmly situate the piece within the Barbizon tradition. Antonio Cortés (1827–1908); born in Seville and originally a painter at the Spanish Royal Court, Cortés rose to early fame for his depictions of animals and rural landscapes. He relocated to France in 1855 and settled permanently in Lagny-sur-Marne in 1865, a vibrant artistic hub just east of Paris. There, he became part of a celebrated circle of open-air painters working along the Marne River, including Charles Jacque and Jean-François Millet. Cortés exhibited regularly at the Salon de Paris from 1859 to 1876, earning recognition for his sensitive depictions of pastoral life, especially cattle in pasture, at watering holes, and in market scenes. Cortés was not only a prolific landscape and animal painter, but also a mentor and artistic bridge between the Barbizon school and the next generation. He was the father of Édouard Cortès (1882–1969), renowned for his Paris street scenes, and also taught Léo Gausson, an important early modernist associated with Neo-Impressionism and Cubism. This composition, likely painted during his Lagny period, demonstrates Cortés' signature fluency in painting livestock, drawing upon influences from Dutch Golden Age masters like Cuyp and Potter, while applying a French realist's command of color, light, and emotional tone. Set within its original, elaborately carved giltwood frame, the work measures 28 inches wide by 25 inches high overall. The canvas remains unlined and stable, with minor expected wear and age commensurate with its history. Works by Antonio Cortés are held in the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Troyes (Vaches dans un paysage) and the Musée Gatien-Bonnet de Lagny-sur-Marne (Vaches au pâturage). He is referenced in the Benezit Dictionary of Artists and in Nicole Verdier's Édouard Cortès Catalogue Raisonné. A beautifully preserved and historically significant painting from a key figure of the Barbizon tradition, perfect for collectors of 19th-century French landscapes or early Spanish-French crossover art.

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