

19TH CENTURY BELGIUM HARBOR SCENE OIL ON CANVAS PAINTING SIGNED JULES BAHIEU

$6,400

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Bring the energy of a bustling 19th-century European port into your home with this masterful oil on canvas. Painted circa 1880 and signed in the lower left corner by the artist Jules Gustave Bahieu, the work captures a lively harbor scene where fishing boats rest along the quay as townspeople gather, barter goods, and stroll the waterfront. The composition is beautifully framed by timbered and stone houses that rise dramatically on either side, guiding the eye toward the church spire in the distance beneath a luminous, cloud-filled sky. The architecture and harbor setting strongly suggest the picturesque port of Honfleur, a favorite subject for Bahieu and his contemporaries. Honfleur was a renowned destination for 19th-century painters such as Eugène Boudin, Claude Monet, and Johan Barthold Jongkind, drawn by its distinctive architecture, reflective harbor waters, and shifting coastal light. Bahieu (1847-1916), a Belgian-born painter known for landscapes and scenes of daily life, exhibited regularly at the Paris Salon between 1885 and 1895 and is listed in the Benezit Dictionary of Artists (see last picture). His work Le petit rachapt à Vitré (1882) is housed at the Château de Vitré, and additional examples of his paintings are preserved in the Musée de Louviers and the Musée Eugène-Boudin in Honfleur. Celebrated for his finely detailed coastal and genre scenes, Bahieu skillfully balances architectural precision with atmospheric light. This example highlights his sensitive brushwork, attention to figural detail, and warm, glowing palette, resulting in a narrative moment brimming with life and movement. Presented in its original giltwood frame with ornate corner and center cartouches, the large antique painting retains its period charm; it is further dressed with a plaque with artist name. It is mounted on a wood backing for extra stability, and remains in excellent condition commensurate with age and use. Measuring 34" wide by 40.5" high, this substantial artwork makes a striking focal point for a living room, library, or study wall.

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