

RICHARD GREEN

FINE PAINTINGS • ESTABLISHED 1955

JOHN ATKINSON GRIMSHAW

1836 - Leeds - 1893

Ref: CA 170

Evening at Knostrop



Signed and dated lower left: *Atkinson Grimshaw 1881*

Oil on board: 14 x 18 in / 35.5 x 45.8 cm

Frame size: 20 ¼ x 24 ¼ in / 51.4 x 61.6 cm



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Provenance:

Private collection

Bonhams, 8th June 1967, lot 191;

Thomas Agnew & Sons Ltd., London, label no.28603, acquired from the above;

Private collection, acquired from the above, 24th August 1967

Richard Green, London

The growing success of Grimshaw's career encouraged him to rent Knostrop Old Hall, a seventeenth century manor house on the Temple Newsam estate and the artist's home for twenty-three years from 1870 until his death in 1893. The move from Cliff Road, Woodhouse to the village of Knowsthorpe, two miles east of Leeds signified not only the artist's success but his standing as an important local figure. Once the home of Adam Bayes, MP for Leeds during the Commonwealth, the building was sadly demolished in the 1960s. Photographs in the collection of Leeds Library and a reference in Louis Ambler's *The Old Halls and Manor Houses of Yorkshire*, 1913, reveal it to have been a grand house with remarkable architectural features. This handsome Jacobean mansion was often the inspiration for fantastic composite buildings in Grimshaw's lane scenes in which he enriched its already extraordinary features.

JOHN ATKINSON GRIMSHAW

1836 - Leeds - 1893

Born in Leeds, the son of an ex-policeman, Grimshaw first took up painting while he was employed as a clerk for the Great Northern Railway. He married his cousin Frances Theodosia Hubbarde in 1858 and by 1861, he had abandoned his job in order to devote all his time to becoming an artist. In his early work, John Atkinson Grimshaw was influenced by John Ruskin's creed of 'truth to nature' and adopted the detailed Pre-Raphaelite technique of the Leeds painter, John William Inchbold. He was also fascinated by the relatively new art of photography and may have used a *camera obscura* in developing his compositions.

Towards 1865, he renounced this painting style. He painted many urban scenes in which moonlight and shadows were the most striking features. The towns and docks that he painted most frequently were Glasgow Liverpool. Leeds, Scarborough, Whitby and London. These works have become his best known though he also painted landscapes, portraits, interior scenes, fairy pictures and neo-classical subjects. Grimshaw painted mostly for private patrons. He only exhibited five works at the Royal Academy between 1874 and 1876.

By 1870, Grimshaw had become successful enough to move to Knostrop Old Hall, a seventeenth century mansion about two miles from the centre of Leeds, which featured in many of his paintings. He rented another home near Scarborough which he called 'The Castle by the Sea', towards 1876. Grimshaw suffered a serious financial disaster in 1879 and had to leave his house at Scarborough. He moved to London and rented a studio in Chelsea, leaving his family at Knostrop. He returned to Knostrop, where he died in 1893. Several of his children, Arthur Grimshaw (1868-1913), Louis Grimshaw (1870-1944), Wilfred Grimshaw (1871-1937) and Elaine Grimshaw (1877-1970), became painters.

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The work of Grimshaw is represented in the Bradford City Art Gallery, the Shipley Art Gallery, Gateshead, the Gloucester Museum and Art Gallery, the Bankfield Museum, Halifax, the Harrogate Museums and Art Gallery, the Ferens Art Gallery, Kingston-upon-Hull, the Huddersfield Art Gallery, Kirklees Metropolitan Council, the Harris Art Gallery, Preston, the Leeds City Art Gallery, the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, the Guildhall Art Gallery and the Tate Gallery, London, the Scarborough Art Gallery, the Wakefield Art Gallery and Museums, the Pannett Gallery, Whitby, the Musée des Beaux-Arts, Brest, France, the Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut, the Nelson-Atkins Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, Minnesota, the Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, Connecticut, the Museum of Art, New Orleans, Louisiana, the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island in the United States, the Shepparton Art Centre, Welsford, Victoria, Australia and the King George VI Art Gallery, Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

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