



Emil Nolde:
Picture "Steamship on the High Seas / Evening Sea and Steamship" (around 1945/46) (Unique piece)

Product no.: IN-952526.R1

Emil Nolde's expressive perception of nature also characterises the painting "Steamboat on the High Seas" (also known as 'Evening Sea and Steamboat'). Here, the forces of nature and human civilisation meet in an almost dramatic tension. A steamer crosses the turbulent sea, its dark silhouette standing out against the glowing evening sky. But Nolde refrains from a detailed depiction - the steamer remains a shadowy apparition, almost a shadow that dissolves into its elements. The colour composition determines the effect of the picture to a particular degree. The sea appears in deep blue and green tones, while the sky shines in bright red and orange.

This heightened colourfulness is typical of Nolde: it does not follow the laws of nature, but arises from an intense, subjective perception. Colour becomes a means of expressing feeling - it conveys not only the external image of a sunset at sea, but also the experience of the sublimity, the infinity and perhaps also the menace of nature. The painting style is impulsive and spontaneous, with a visible brushstroke and often impasto application of colour. Nolde dispenses with illusionistic depth; instead, the two-dimensional arrangement of the colour forms creates an immediate pictorial presence. The ship's vapour dissolves in the glowing atmosphere, the waves are only indicated by rapid, expressive strokes.

Viewed as a whole, this work is part of a series of Nolde's seascapes, which can be understood not only as landscape paintings but also as existential confrontations with nature. It is this combination of intense colour, flowing resolution of form and emotional expressiveness that makes Nolde's painting - especially his watercolours - so unique. He shows us not just a landscape, but an inner experience of nature that goes beyond mere visibility.

Watercolour on Japanese paper, c. 1945/46, signed. The watercolour is registered under no. Fr.A.625 in the archive of the Nolde Foundation Seebüll and will be included in the Catalogue raisonné of Emil Nolde's watercolours and drawings. Motif size/sheet size 22.8 x 27.4 cm. Size in frame 49 x 53 cm as shown.

Product link: <https://www.kunsthhaus-artes.de/en/picture-steamship-on-the-high-seas-evening-sea-and-steamship-around-1945-46-unique-piece-952526-r1/>