

STEPHEN ONGPIN FINE ART



Théodore Gudin (1802 - 1880)

Moonlit Scene on the Isle of Mull, with a Scottish Soldier Seated on the Shores of a Loch

Pen and brown ink and brown wash, heightened with white, over traces of an underdrawing in pencil, on blue paper.

Signed, dated and inscribed T. Gudin. Mull. 4 Juin 1842 at the lower left.
134 x 235 mm. (5 1/4 x 9 1/4 in.)

Drawn on the island of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland, this drawing – which is signed and dated the 4th of June, 1842 - is likely to have been made as an autonomous work, rather than as a study for a painting. The drawing appears to depict the Gribun cliffs on Loch Na Keal, a sea loch on the west coast of Mull, as seen from the small island of Inch Kenneth at the mouth of the loch.

Gudin spent much time in Scotland, where his wife's family was from, and was often a guest of his father-in-law at his home of Seaton Park in Aberdeenshire. From there he would send paintings to be exhibited at the Royal Academy and the British Institution in London, while others were shown in Paris, including such genre paintings as *A Scottish Hunting Party*, exhibited at the Salon of 1849. The artist retired to Scotland after the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-1871. Among other watercolours of Scottish scenes by Gudin is a large, finished view of mountains near Perth, today in the collection of the Musée du Louvre.

A moonlit seascape by Théodore Gudin, dated the same year as the present sheet and on similar deep blue paper, appeared at auction in Paris in 2009. Another stylistically similar moonlit scene on this distinctive blue paper, depicting a hunter shooting at a lion, was part of a large group of drawings by the artist sold at auction in Paris in 2000.

Provenance:

Guy Maugras, Monaco
Thence by descent until 2012.

Artist description:

A student of Anne-Louis Girodet and Antoine-Jean Gros at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, Théodore Gudin was the most celebrated marine painter of the first half of the 19th century. He began exhibiting at the Salons in 1822, and two years later won a first-class medal. Gudin achieved his first successes as a painter of seascapes and naval subjects, with his painting of *The Fire on the Kent* receiving huge praise at the Salon of 1827 and earning the artist the Legion of Honour from Charles X. Among his significant commissions was a series of paintings of views of French ports for Versailles, a

project first awarded to and begun by Claude-Joseph Vernet, while for Louis Philippe he painted a series of nearly one hundred large paintings depicting victories of the French Navy, also for Versailles; several of these were exhibited at the Paris Salon between 1839 and 1848.

Famous throughout Europe as a marine painter, Gudin was ennobled as a Baron by Louis-Philippe, and in 1844 married the King's goddaughter Margaret Hay, daughter of General Sir James Hay and granddaughter of the 7th Marquess of Tweeddale. Among Gudin's other patrons were the Duc d'Orléans, Czar Nicholas I and Napoleon III, by whom he was appointed official painter to the expedition to Algiers.

Gudin painted views of the Channel coast and the Mediterranean, and also travelled to Italy, Holland, Poland, Russia and Turkey. He continued to exhibit at the Salons until his death, and also produced a number of etchings and lithographs, as well as contributing illustrations for such books as Eugène Sue's *Histoire de la marine française*, published in 1835.

Théodore Gudin's drawings in sepia wash and watercolour were much admired for their atmospheric depictions of stormy seas, placid waters, sunsets and harbour scenes by moonlight, and were avidly acquired by collectors and connoisseurs throughout Europe. Drawings by Gudin are in the collections of the Louvre, the British Museum, the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, and elsewhere.