

Richard Strebel, Cows and at Lake Chiemsee, c.1900, oil on canvas, 38 x 50 cm, signed and marked "Richard Strebel München" lower right, a note with biographical details and illegible markings on the reverse as well as various dealer information, framed (56 x 66.5 cm). Condition: cleaned, very good.

Richard Hermann Strebel (Veracruz, Mexico, 1861 – Raitenhaslach, 1940) remains popular today both as an animal painter and for his writings on dog breeding. The son of Hamburg merchant, mollusk researcher, and ethnologist Hermann Strebel (1834–1914), he spent the first six years of his life in Mexico before the family returned to Hamburg. From 1880, he studied under Hermann Knackfuß (1848–1915) and Georg Koch (1819–1899) at the Kassel Art Academy, but in 1881 he transferred to the Grand Ducal Art School of Baden in Karlsruhe to study under Hermann Baisch (1846–1894) and Gustav Schönleber (1851–1917).

After graduating and undertaking numerous study trips, Strebel moved to Munich in 1886 and soon began to specialize in landscape painting and the depiction of animals, particularly dogs. In 1897, he founded the *Luitpold Group* with other Munich artists, which represented a moderately modern style of painting and promoted high artistic quality above all else. Between 1893 and 1919, he lived at various addresses in Munich (Schwanthalerstr. 7, Prinzenstr. 7), Pasing (Waldkolonie, Hermannstr. 18, Parkstr. 45), and Gauting (Waldpromenade 77). He then lived until his death in Trutzhof, a former paper mill belonging to the famous Cistercian monastery of Raitenhaslach near Burghausen.

Richard Strebel was extremely successful with his animal paintings and, above all, his naturalistic depictions of dogs. For decades, he exhibited at the Munich Annual Exhibition in the Glaspalast, as well as at the Munich Art Association, in Hamburg, Berlin, Stuttgart, Cologne, etc., and was awarded a bronze medal at London's Crystal Palace in 1890. In 1944, he was posthumously appointed professor at the Munich Academy of Arts. From 1912 onwards, his paintings were repeatedly used in the magazine *Jugend*.

He also worked as a dog judge and expert and published standard works on dog breeding, illustrated with his own drawings, such as *Die deutschen Hunde und ihre Abstammung* (German Dogs and Their Ancestry, 2 volumes, 1903–1905) and many other specialist articles. He was supported in this by his wife, dog breeder Helene Strebel (née Simons), who bred Schnauzers under the kennel name *Schwabing*.

This painting, probably created around 1900, dates from Strebel's most productive period, which lasted until the First World War. In this period, he initially created pasture scenes in the Munich School style, such as this outstanding example, but later concentrated primarily on depicting dogs with and without landscapes. The painting shows a number of cows on a beautiful summer's day, some drinking water or having just finished drinking, others lying or standing in a meadow lined with large, shady trees. Three white ducks can be seen in the foreground, with Lake Chiemsee and the bell tower of the Benedictine convent of Frauenwörth in the background against a white-blue sky. The view is therefore probably from the Urfahr peninsula across the Ganszipfel towards Fraueninsel.

Due to the lack of dimensions and further information in the exhibition catalog, it is no longer possible to verify whether the painting is the work *An der Tränke* (At the Watering Hole), which was exhibited by Richard Strebel in Munich's Glaspalast in 1902. As usual, not included in the

offer, but provided free of charge, is the beautiful period gold-embossed frame that matches the painting.