

JOHN MITCHELL

FINE PAINTINGS



Wilhelm Friedrich Burger (1882 - 1964)

The Grandes Jorasses seen from the Couvercle Hut, Chamonix, France

watercolour on paper
28 x 38.5 cm
signed and dated on verso: 1933

One of the leading graphic artists of his time, Wilhelm, or Willy, Burger is widely recognized today for his lithographed posters. Some of these placards now sell for more than his oils and watercolours! However, he was first and foremost a painter by training. He apprenticed in Zurich before leaving for Philadelphia and New York in 1908. After working there for several years, he returned to Zurich from where he would travel throughout the Swiss Alps, the Mediterranean and even Egypt for his commissions. This lofty panorama was painted in 1933 from the best known viewpoint of the monumental peak that straddles the French and Italian borders. Burger's watercolour skills come to the fore in his rendering of the shadows reaching down the rocks to the Bergschrund above the Glacier du Géant; the small blob of undiluted ultramarine blue in the centre of Burger's composition conjures the ice and late afternoon cold.