

# Norbert Goeneutte

## His life and work

\* 23 July 1854 Paris

† 9 October 1894 Auvers-sur-Oise

### His life

Norbert Goeneutte was born in 1854 in Paris.

After his schooling at the Lycée Condorcet, he worked in an attorney's office.

In 1871 he began his artistic training at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts where he studied painting with Isidore Pils.

Upon Pils' death in 1875, Goeneutte moved in his own studio in bohemian Montmartre.

Goeneutte was among the regular visitors of the Café de la Nouvelle Athenes and cultivated close contacts with the local artistic community. Here he met Pierre-Auguste Renoir and as a friendly service stood more than once as a model for him.

Other Impressionist painters like Edgar Degas, Claude Monet and Camille Pissarro were among his friends. Although these artists exerted great influence on his art, he did not exhibit his work at any of the eight group exhibitions of the Impressionists.

Like his friend Édouard Manet, Goeneutte preferred to present his pictures in the official Paris Salon to the public.

Here he made his debut in 1876 with the Paris street scene *Le Boulevard de Clichy* (The Boulevard de Clichy in the snow), and participated in these exhibitions annually from then on.

Another important friend of Goeneutte was Marcellin Desboutin who awakened in him a passion for woodcutting and etching. Later Goeneutte was among those who founded the Société des français peintres-engraver, an association of graphic designers who organized exhibitions consisting mainly of etchings.

Financial support of his brother allowed Goeneutte several trips at home and abroad. He spent 1880 in London, 1887 in Rotterdam and 1890 in Venice. Together with the collector Hippolyte Fortin, whom he had portrayed in 1879, he traveled to Normandy in 1881. More visits to the French provinces followed in 1887 to Honfleur and in 1889 the landscapes of Beauce, Sologne and the Bordelais greeted Goeneutte. During these trips and visits numerous works were created with landscape scenes and cityscapes.

In 1891 the doctor and leisure painter Paul Gachet diagnosed Goeneutte with a weak heart. In the same year Goeneutte moved to Gachet's residence in Auvers-sur-Oise, and created a portrait of the doctor. Together with Gachet Goeneutte worked at various graphical illustrations.

After a lung disease Goeneutte died in 1894 and was buried on the Cimetière d'Auvers-sur-Oise.

### His work

At the beginning of his career Goeneutte oriented himself toward a traditional academic style of painting and counted Flemish painters among his idols.

Besides some oriental motifs he initially preferred genre pieces, interiors and portraits of family members and friends. Later came landscapes of Normandy, Flanders, the region around Bordeaux and Paris.

In addition to views of the city of Venice, Antwerp and Rotterdam are the motives especially with Parisian scenes of everyday life characteristic of his work. In his detailed depictions of life on the streets of Paris, he described both the figures of the civil society, such as the worker milieu, where he most often painted women.

While the faces of the people are usually worked out fine, he took over the background painting style of the Impressionists. Particularly in the atmospheric lighting in the painting reproduction of Pont de l'Europe, effet de nuit the influence of Claude Monet can be seen. In addition to paintings in oil,

Goeneutte also worked in watercolor and pastel and left an extensive collection of drawings.

The graphic print work includes about 200 etchings, mostly in drypoint. Here, he frequently used combinations with aquatint or mezzotint. These etchings, published at Alfred Cadart and Auguste Delatre, often show sketchy portraits and landscapes and cityscapes. Stylistically, these works are closely related to those of his friends Félix Buhot, Charles Emile Jacque and Henri Guérard. In addition to the etchings seven lithographs by Goeneutte are also known.

Goeneutte's illustrations appeared in various magazines such as L'Illustré Nouveau Paris, Paris à l'eau-forte and La Vie Parisienne. In addition, some of his scenes came in 1890 in the city Description Paris Promenades dans les Vingt arrondissements of Alexis Martin for publication. Also in the novel La Terre by Émile Zola, his etchings are used as book illustrations.

### Paintings in museum collections

Musée du Louvre, département des arts graphiques: Vue de de Papendrecht - Lettre à Bouvenne Auglaus - Marcella dessin - Samedi 9 lettre -

Musée d'Orsay: (Portrait Dr P. Gachet)

National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; Fantasia gravure

National Gallery, Londres: Avenue de Clichy sous la neige

Musée Carnavalet, Paris: Portrait de Charles Goeneutte frère de l'artiste, pointe sèche - Le lavoir de Plailly, Eau-forte - Le Boulevard de Clichy par temps de neige, Eau-forte - Petite vue du Boulevard de Clichy, Eau-forte - Le dernier salut, Eau-forte - Parisienne au bois de Boulogne, Eau-forte - Marché près de l'église de Pontoise, watercolor, - Marchande de fleurs sur le Boulevard

Musée Alphonse Georges Poulain à Vernon, Eure: Fleuriste boulevard Rochechouart, - Portrait de Jean Buhot, HSB - Le Cellier

Musée Camille Pissarro, à Pontoise, Val-d'Oise: une centaine de gravures de Goeneutte

Musée des beaux-arts de Bordeaux; Gironde; Portrait en pieds de John-Lewis Brown, dessin

Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Strasbourg, Bas-Rhin: Portrait d'un jeune homme au chapeau, Eau-forte

Harvard University, Fogg Art Museum, USA: Henri Charles Guérard - Alice gravures

San Francisco De Young Museum, Californie, USA: Le Pont Neuf, gravure

Boston, USA: Route à Auvers

Cleveland Museum of art, USA: Fantasia ou Fancy

Baltimore Museum of Art, USA: Le Pont de l'Europe et la Gare St Lazare; - Rotterdam, gouache - Homme de profil, Study

New York Public Library NYPL Digital Gallery, USA: les Graveurs frontispice, gravure

Musée Daubigny à Auvers-sur-Oise, Val-d'Oise: Le Port de Rotterdam, HSP

Musée Anne de Beaujeu à Moulins, Allier: Au Louvre devant une fresque de Botticelli

Palais du Luxembourg, Sénat de Paris: La Soupe du matin

## **Bibliography**

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Gilbert de Knyff, *Norbert Goeneutte, sa vie, son oeuvre*, éd. Mayer, Paris, 1978

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