

CONSTANTIN MEUNIER

(Brussels, 1831 - Ixelles, 1905)

The Miner

indistinctly inscribed upper right

charcoal on paper

840 x 630 mm

Constantin Meunier's contribution to the field of Belgian art lies in his iconisation of the modern working man and the illumination of his daily plight. Trained as a sculptor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Brussels, Meunier changed medium after his first exhibition at the Brussels Salon of 1851, believing canvas could better articulate his social concerns than bronze. From this point, Meunier specialised in depictions of miners, factory workers, dockhands, ploughmen, and peasants. As with this drawing, these were often large-scale works focusing on a single figure pausing mid-labour. Ironically, it was in returning to sculpture in 1885, that Meunier's work grew to public acclaim. His colossal sculptures championing the working life of the industrialising 19th century are still visible as public monuments in Brussels.

Please contact us for a full catalogue entry.