

JOHANNES AUGUST FISCHER

COPENHAGEN 1854 – COPENHAGEN 1921

August Fischer trained in the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts from 1869–1874 and was later a private pupil of P. S. Krøyer, but he never joined the period's rebels. He first painted a number of genre paintings, but gradually specialized in city views and found a splendid means of gaining an income by satisfying a demand from the public at large for decorative cityscapes from Denmark and abroad. He seems to have had a particular liking for cities with old houses and canals. In Denmark, these included the cathedral city of Ribe out in the far west of the Southern Jutland marshlands; in Germany, especially Hamburg and Nuremberg; in Holland, Dordrecht in the Rhine delta; and of course the most famous of all European canal cities, Venice.

Fischer showed for the first time at Charlottenborg in 1874, exhibiting there regularly until 1905 and then again from 1919 until his death. He took part in the major Scandinavian exhibitions in the 1880s and was represented in the watershed exhibition of Danish art in Copenhagen City Hall (Raadhusudstillingen) in 1901. Stylistically, his painting can be termed naturalistic, but as a painter of views, he represents a tradition in Western European painting aiming at a specific objective whereby reality stands outside the artistic trends of the time.

August Fischer was an older brother of the famous Paul Fischer, but nevertheless little is known of his life. He is represented in two Danish art museums, in Ribe and Århus.

E.F.

LITERATURE: Erik Mortensen, in *Weilbach*, vol. 2, Copenhagen 1994.