

MICHAEL ANCHER

1849–1927

13. *Fisherman Anders Velle and His Wife, Ane, on Skagen Beach,*

1920

(*Fiskeren Anders Velle og hans kone, Ane, ved Skagens Sønderstrand*)

Oil on canvas, 31 x 43¾ in. (79 x 111 cm)

Signed and dated lower right: Michael Ancher 20

PROVENANCE: Arne Bruun Rasmussen, Auction 453, 1983, lot 7, ill. p. 37.

EXHIBITED: Kunstforeningen, *Michael Ancher*, 1949, no. 72 (described as *Fiskeren Anders Velle og hans kone*).

The unusual landscape and unique light on a summer evening at Skagen beach near Østerby can still be experienced today. This is where Michael Ancher found his first motifs in 1874 when he came to Skagen, subjects enough to last him the rest of his life. Right from the start, the local citizens of Skagen caught his interest. As a figure painter he was trained and encouraged to study the lives and activities of ordinary people. But in contrast to so many other painters, who regarded their models only as objects, Ancher immersed himself in their milieu and thereby won the hearts of the people of Skagen. Through his marriage to Anna Brøndum he had found a home, where he won respect not only for his diligence and his daily work at the beach (no matter what the weather) but also for his understanding and honest portrayals of the everyday lives of the people of Skagen.

E.F.