

MICHAEL ANCHER

1849–1927

8. *Moorland Landscape, Skagen, Figures in the Foreground*

(Hedelandskab, Skagen med personer i forgrunden)

Oil on canvas, 15 x 20 in. (38 x 51 cm)

Signed with initials lower right: M.A.

PROVENANCE: Bruun Rasmussen, Auction 526, 1989, lot 93, ill. p. 102 (described as *Udsigt over fladt landskab med gående personer*).

Location unknown.

It is no longer possible to localize the motif that has tempted Michael Ancher here. The houses in the background have probably been pulled down or moved, as frequently used to happen. But it was painted at Skagen, presumably close to Skagen Østerby, which in Ancher's day was surrounded by large expanses of moorland. Ancher was a great nature lover, frequently hunting and spending much of his time outdoors while observing the colors and lighting in the imposing landscapes around Skagen. Michael Ancher's interest in landscapes and cloud formations, as painted here, gradually increased over time. A great many detailed studies of landscapes have been preserved in Michael and Anna Ancher's museum house, in Skagen.

E.F.