

MICHAEL ANCHER

1849–1927

12. *Fisherman's Wife Knitting on Skagen Beach*

(*Strikkende fiskerkone på stranden*)

Oil on canvas, 31 x 24 $\frac{2}{3}$ in. (79 x 63 cm)

Signed with initials lower right: MA

PROVENANCE: Arne Bruun Rasmussen, Auction 453, 1983, lot 9, ill. p. 49.

(An almost identical version, 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 26 in. [80 x 66 cm], signed lower right: M. Ancher, was sold at auction, Kunsthallen, 14.10. 1944, lot 9).

EXHIBITED: Scandinavia House, New York, *Danish Paintings from the Golden Age to the Modern Breakthrough, Selections from the Collection of Ambassador John L. Loeb Jr.*, 2013, no. 6.

LITERATURE: Patricia G. Berman, *In Another Light, Danish Painting in the Nineteenth Century*, New York, 2007, ill. p. 158.

From the time that Ancher first came to Skagen in 1874, the sea off Skagen challenged him. In his younger years he was most frequently tempted by storm and surf; in his later years (when he painted this picture) he painted mainly calm seas. Whereas Krøyer preferred the evening twilight, Ancher from the start chose the warm, reddish light of sunset. This is seen in *A Lay Preacher Holding a Service on Skagen Beach*, 1877 (Skagens Museum), which like the present work contains the frequently repeated motif of a fisherman's wife sitting on a boat. Through lifelong practice, Michael Ancher mastered the depiction of the famous Skagen light at all times of the year. Here he has been intrigued by the contrast between the cool blue of the deep shadows and the sunlight falling on the sand. The model is known from other studies and larger paintings.

E.F.