

CARL BLOCH

1834–1890

18. *A Fisherboy*, ca. 1856

(*En fiskerdreng*)

Study for Magnussen no. 40 and 43

Oil on canvas, 12½ x 9⅔ in. (32 x 25 cm)

Signed lower right: Carl Bloch fec.¹

PROVENANCE: Kunsthandler Chr. Larsen (1921); Arne Bruun Rasmussen, Auction 453, 1983, lot 25 (described as *Fiskerdreng med en kurv fisk på ryggen*).

EXHIBITED: Kunstforeningen, Copenhagen, *Arbejder af maleren Carl Bloch*, 1921, no. 19.

LITERATURE: Rikard Magnussen, *Carl Bloch*, Copenhagen 1931, no. 44.

A Fisher Boy is one of a number of preparatory works for a larger, carefully composed portrayal of *Fishermen from the West Coast of Jutland* with a motif from Vestervig, (Magnussen no. 40, Fig. A), first exhibited at Charlottenborg in 1857 and later repeated in a slightly smaller format (Magnussen no. 42).

The boy carrying the fish on his back is also found in another preparatory work for this painting. This has the same title but is also known as *Hjemkomsten fra Havet* (*Return from the Sea*) or *Fiskeren og hans dreng vender hjem* (*The Fisherman and His Boy Return Home*) (Magnussen no. 43, Fig. B).

The Loeb collection sketch is the only one to take as its main motif the intrepid little boy laboriously lugging the basket of shining fish.

S.L.



FIG. A Carl Bloch
Fishermen from the West Coast of Jutland, 1857
Oil on canvas, 45¼ in. x 66⅞ in. (115 x 168 cm), present owner unknown (Magnussen no. 40).



FIG. B Carl Bloch
The Fisherman and His Boy Return Home, 1859
Oil on canvas, 16⅞ x 23¼ in. (41 x 59 cm), present owner unknown (Magnussen no. 43).

¹Abbreviation for fecit from the Latin meaning “made by” or “executed by.”