

Antique 19th century English portrait two Bull Dogs in a yard.

John Herring

\$4,760



REF: 2426

Height: 30.48 cm (12")

Width: 35.56 cm (14")

## Description

A wonderful 19th century portrait of two Bull dogs in a barnyard.

Artist Bio:Herring was born on 12 September 1795 in Blackfriars, London, the eldest of nine children of Benjamin Herring (d. 1871) and Sarah Jemima (d. 1831), née Howard. His father was a fringe maker and upholsterer working from Newgate Street in the City of London. The Herring family were of Dutch origin and both his father and grandfather, Jan Frederick, pursued unsuccessful claims to the family property in Curaçao. Herring was never apprenticed to his father and hence ineligible to work in the trade. In September 1814 he took the Royal Leeds Union stage and arrived at Doncaster in time to attend the Great St Leger horse race. Lodging in the town, he came upon a coach builder's finishing shop and helped an employee complete the painting of a horse on one of the coaches. The coachbuilder was impressed and asked him to paint the insignia on the Royal Forrester. On the trial run of the latter, he met the proprietor, Mr Hill, and begged of him the vacant post of coachman to the Nelson. He was given the job and followed the arduous profession for six years, ending up on the box of the prestigious High Flyer plying between York and London. Despite working long hours on the stagecoach, the self-taught Herring nonetheless produced a number of surprisingly competent paintings from at least 1815 onwards. Within a year of arriving in Doncaster Herring had set up house with Ann Harris (1796–1838)— no record of their marriage has been found—and had seen the birth of the first of their children, John Frederick junior. His reputation as a sporting painting grew and he developed a following. Among his early patrons were his contemporary Mr (afterward the Revd) Charles Stanhope, a severe critic whose opinion he dreaded; Mr. Clarke of Barnby Moor, owner of the High Flyer; and Mr. Hawkesworth of Hickleton Hall, whose repeated appeals eventually persuaded him to give more time to painting and who found commissions for him from the Hon. E. Petre, Sir Bellingham Graham, and others. Herring's first exhibit at the Royal Academy was *A Dog* in 1818; in the following year, he had his drawing of the fractured leg of a racehorse reproduced in the *Sporting Magazine*. The year 1825 saw the start of the scheme that made him famous. The *Doncaster Gazette* arranged for him to paint the winners of St Leger from 1815 onwards. The pictures were then engraved and published first by Messrs Sheardown & Son, owners of the *Gazette*, and subsequently by S. and J. Fuller, and then by Baily Bros. In all, Herring painted thirty-four winners, thirty-one of which were made into prints. A series of twenty Derby winners followed two years later in 1827. 'As a portrayer of the thoroughbred horse in high condition, he is, and long has been unrivaled' (Memoir). By 1830, his fame as a painter of the turf established, Herring moved to Six Mile Bottom, near Newmarket, the headquarters of racing. He stayed there for three years before departing for Camberwell on the outskirts of London. He now had seven surviving children, three of whom became artists: John Frederick junior, Charles (1828– 1856), and Benjamin (1830–1871). Another Benjamin (1806–1830), Herrin...