Late 19th Century English portrait of an English Jack Russell called Fritz

John Emms

$9,500

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REF: 2444

Height: 25.4 cm (10")

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Width: 25.4 cm (10")

Description

Early 20th Century English portrait of an English Jack Russell, Called Fritz.
John Emms was born at Blofield, Norfolk, the son of the artist Henry William Emms. An interest in art took him to London and for some time he worked as Frederick, Lord Leighton's studio assistant. Emms helped Leighton to execute the fresco of The Ten Virgins in Lyndhurst Parish Church, adding the owl, a symbol of Sloth. From 1866 onwards, Emms exhibited at the Royal Academy, Suffolk Street, and various other venues. In 1875, the London exhibition entitled The Beauties of the New Forest included three of his paintings. He returned to Lyndhurst in 1872.
Endowed with artistic talent, equestrian accomplishment, and social grace, Emms rapidly acquired a large clientele and was commissioned to paint horses, hounds, and dog portraits, often traveling extensively around the country. In 1880, he married Fanny Primmer, the daughter of a Lyndhurst gentleman; after the marriage, they settled in London. He returned to Lyndhurst in 1881 and built a large house and studio named The Firs, where he remained for the rest of his life.Emms was an artist of considerable ability; his early works were painted with precision and the use of glazing; he later developed a more fluent and direct approach, using a more limited palette. He was a prolific painter and was admired for the vitality of his animal portraits and his depiction of dogs.
This piece is a very fine example of the artist's work being both signed and titled, Fritz

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