



The Death of the Vagrant

Primary Maker

Alphonse Legros

Medium

Etching and aquatint on paper

Dimensions

63 x 44.5 cm

Description

This is an intaglio print (etching and aquatint) on paper. It is an atmospheric print depicting a dying vagabond lying beneath a bare tree. The tree is sharply leaning, counterbalancing the pose of the dying man, giving a sense of imminent drama, as is the dark encroaching sky. The tree is struggling to remain upright echoing the man's struggle to hold onto life. Legros was born in Dijon, France and attended art school there, with the intention of becoming a tradesman. However in 1855 Legros attended

the evening classes of the École des Beaux Arts in Paris. Legros went to England in 1863 and became teacher of etching at the South Kensington School of Art. In 1876 he took up position of Professor at Slade University College, London, where he was of great influence to many well-known artists of the day.