



William Aiken Walker, (1838-1921) *Wash Day at the Cabin* Oil 6 x 12 inches Estimate: \$10,000 - \$15,000

According to Cynthia Seibels, author of *The Sunny South: The Life and Art of William Aiken Walker* and John Fowler who is preparing a catalogue raisonne' on Walker's work, William Aiken Walker (born in Charleston, South Carolina, 1839) began painting solitary, rural cabins, inhabited by poor black plantation works in the late 1880's. For the most part, these oil paintings were created on academy board manufactured by F. W. Devoe Company of New York that Walker personally cut into six inches by twelve inches panels. (A few were cut into approximately nine inches by twelve inches dimensions.) The backs of these panels were frequently inscribed in pencil with the title *Cabin*, and prices were also noted, sometimes with a second price if the buyer purchased a pair. Prices ranged from five to twenty-seven dollars.

The cabin pictured here is a fully developed composition especially rich in typical Walker details. A crude, pine-log structure with wooden roof and mud-wood chimney supported by poles to be removed (allowing the chimney to collapse and save the cabin in case of fire); seven figures; ten chickens; a dog; hog in the trough; wash pot and wash tubs with wash drying on the fence and rack; coon skin and peppers; potted plant in the window; hollowed gourd martin houses; field of cotton; Palmetto trees and Spanish moss is vintage Walker. This painting will be included in John Fowler's forthcoming catalogue raisonne' of works by William Aiken Walker.



William Aiken Walker, (1838-1921) *Two Cotton Pickers in a Field* Oil 6 x 12 inches

By 1885 Walker was also painting field workers singly or in pairs, mostly in the context of the cotton industry. These panels ranged in size from eight inches by four inches to large canvases that measure fifty inches in height. Most of the double figures were on six inches by twelve inches panels. *Two Cotton Pickers in a Field* is further enhanced with a cabin in the distance. Estimated at \$9,000 to \$12,000. This painting will be included in John Fowler's forthcoming catalogue raisonne' of works by William Aiken Walker.

Saturday • November 5th

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