KLAAS MULLER

JAN VAN KESSEL THE ELDER

A River landscape with fish in the foreground

This finely detailed painting exemplifies the refined precision and naturalistic clarity for which Jan van Kessel the Elder, a prominent member of the Antwerp school, is celebrated. Set along a tranquil riverbank, the composition combines a serene landscape with an exquisite still-life arrangement of freshwater fish, crustaceans and aquatic creatures displayed in the foreground. Two sailing vessels glide across the calm water, while soft clouds and distant greenery evoke a peaceful, atmospheric setting.

Van Kessel's meticulous brushwork, jewel-like palette and characteristic copper support lend the scene a luminous quality. His ability to merge scientific observation with artistic elegance reflects the broader interests of the Flemish Baroque, in which nature, taxonomy and painterly refinement intersected.

Oil on copper, 18.6 x 24 cm (7 $^{3}/_{8}$ x 9 $^{1}/_{2}$ inches)

