



## Biography

Born to an Armenian family in 1872, young Charles Atamian joined the French Lycée Saint-Benoît in Istanbul in 1880. He then carried on high-school studies in Venice, where he qualified in the teaching of drawing, painting and calligraphy.

In 1892, he entered the Venice Fine Arts Academy. Two years later, he decided to go back to Constantinople and became the official painter of Sultan Abdul Hamid II.

In 1897, he settled definitely in Paris, in a studio in the Villa des Arts. After 1910, he started painting portraits of renowned people and, from 1913 to 1942, he exhibited regularly at the Salon des Beaux-Arts and, from 1938 to 1945, at the Salon des Indépendants.

In 1923, he discovered the seashore of Vendée. Seduced and inspired by the seascape, he would produce about 200 paintings, mainly children on the beach. He is considered as a painter of life and light, and an acute observer of the human moods and gesture.

In 1992, he was named Honour citizen of the city of Saint-Gilles-Croix de Vie, in Vendée, with a street bearing his name. In 1995, his grand-daughter donated 42 paintings to the same town.

## Museums

Musées de Cambrai, de Sées

Musée d'Orsay

Péronne, Musée Alfred Danicourt, (La halle aux poissons de Nice ; Bain de sable en Vendée).

Troyes, Musée des Beaux-Arts, (Le petit bateau).

Smithsonian Art Collection, Washington.

## Exhibitions :

Paris, Musée National de la Marine, Exposition Aïvazoski, Février-Juin 2007.

Cagnes-sur-mer, Château Musée Grimaldi, " Peinture Arménienne aux XIX et XXe siècles ",  
Déc.2006-Mars 2007.

## Bibliography

E. Bénézit, " Dictionnaire des peintres, sculpteurs, dessinateurs et graveurs ", Editions Gründ, Paris, 1999

Maud Bianchi-Atamian, " Charles Atamian peintre, 1872-1947 ", Catalogue de l'Exposition Atamian, Juillet-Août 2006, Saint-Hilaire-de-Riez