



Blaise Alexandre Desgoffe

1830-1901

Carved rock crystal ewer and precious objects on red velvet

Oil on canvas / Signed and dated 1893 lower left

Dimensions : 73 x 63 cm

Dimensions : 28.74 x 24.80 inch

## Biography

Blaise Alexandre Desgoffe started his apprenticeship at the Fine Art School of Paris in 1852, in Hippolyte Flandrin's studio. He was also a student of the great academic painter, William Adolphe Bouguereau. After learning history painting, he exhibited genre paintings and still lifes for the first time at the Salon of French Artists in 1854.

At the Salon of French Artists, Desgoffe regularly exhibited exceptionally realistic still lifes with precious objects. He became very well known for his sumptuous paintings that showed his virtuosity and his capacity to organize harmonious compositions similarly to the Dutch 17th century's still lifes. He was frequently compared to the greatest Dutch still life painters: Willem Kalf and Pieter Claesz.

The artist received numerous awards at the Salon of French Artists and at the Paris Salon from 1857 to 1882. His talent for still life was unanimously recognized. The critic Roger Ballu, in his book *Painting at the 1880's Salon*, wrote: "the word skill seems to be made up for his painting; the visitors feel that nobody can go farther in trompe l'oeil". The artist was considered as the best French still life painter of his time.

Most of his 1860s paintings were based on 16th century objects from the Louvre Museum. These sublime gold and silver items and rock crystal vases came from the Apollon Gallery in the Louvre. In the 1870s, he added some Chinese, Japanese and Greek elements, probably on demand from his clients.

Desgoffe had a great influence on still life painting in France and in the USA, more particularly on William Merrit Chase and Willian Michael Harnett.

## Museums

Musée de La Rochelle

Musée de Liège

Musée de Louvre

Baltimore Museum

Brooklyn Museum, New York

Metropolitan Museum, New York

## Bibliography

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Gérald Schurr, Pierre Cabanne, *Dictionnaire des Petits Maîtres de la peinture (1820-1920)*, vol. 1, Edition de l'Amateur, Paris, 1996

Ballu Roger, *La peinture au Salon de 1880 : Les peintres émus, les peintres habiles*, Editeur A. Quantin, Paris

William Gerts and Russell Burk, *American Still-Life Paintings*, p 135/201

*After the Hunt: William Harnett and Other American Still Life Painters 1870-1900*