

Biography

Léopold François Kowalsky was a French artist with German origins who entered to the Paris' Fine Arts School in 1878, in painting class where he took lessons with Henri Lehmann. From his first year here, his works were noticed and he gained a third place medal in painted and modelled figure, and the year after he received a second medal for the same test. The young artist developed a certain taste for the representation of feminine figures, greatly influenced by his master Lehmann. He also took class in the Julian Academy between 1878 and 1879.

From 1881, Kowalsky exhibited at the Salon of French Artists, and became a member here in 1883. On this year he was rewarded with a merit and gained a bronze medal the year after. He exhibited in Lyon's Salon in 1900, 1902 and 1903. For this Salon, the painter exhibited subjects very different to his feminine portraits that he used to paint, and choose to show landscapes from Normandy and Breton countryside. In these paintings, his technique revealed a great post-impressionist inspiration, particularly in light and texture.

In 1912, the painter settled in the Eure French department where he will live with his wife and his daughter. During more than twenty years, these two women were the only subject matter of his artistic production.

In this painting, the artist employed a technique almost monochrome to show us Andromède attached to the rock, promised to the marine monster created by Poseidon to punish Cassiopée. Indeed, Andromède's mother boasted about being more beautiful than the Nereids, and to punish her the god of sea asked her daughter. Resigned to her lot, Andromède is waiting for the monster, without knowing that she will be delivered by Persée during his return from Polydect Island where he killed the Gorgone Medusa. As he sat astride Pegasus, he flew over the Ethiopian cost and saw Andromède. Immediately charmed by the beauty of the young princess, he fought against the marine monster and killed it before marrying his betrothed.

Bibliography

E. Bénézit, "Dictionary of Artists", Paris 2006