

Paul Leroy

1860-1942

Les joueuses d'osselet

Huile sur toile signée en bas à droite

Dimensions : 32,5 x 46,5 cm

Dimensions : 12.60 x 18.11 inch

Dimensions with frame : 54,5 x 68 cm
Dimensions with frame : 21.26 x 26.77 inch

Biography

Born in Paris, Paul Alexandre Leroy starting his artistic training in Odessa, Russia where he had spent his childhood. In 1877, he joined the National School of Fine Art in Paris and became one of Alexandre Cabanel's pupil.

From 1881, he started to exhibit at the Salon of French Artists and obtained a travel grant which enable him to visit Italy. In 1884, he won the Prize of the Salon for his painting "Mardochée" and also gained the second Great Prize of Rome. From 1885 to 1887, Paul Leroy began many trips in Egypt, Tunisia and Turkey. Then he visited Algeria with the painter Charles Landelle. Inside this country, he found the main part of his orientalist inspiration and get so absorbed by Arab civilization that he took Oriental languages course on his return to Paris. At this time, he began a long friendship with Arthur Chassériau and Etienne Dinet. Together and under the inspiration of the art historian Léonce Bénédict, with Charles Cottet and ten other members, they took part in the creation of the Société des Orientalistes Français in 1895. Paul Leroy designed the emblem of the movement : the Hand of Fatma on the Star of Solomon.

The painter gained a silver medal at the 1900's Universal Exhibition and participated in the Colonial Exhibition in 1906, 1922 and 1931.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Paul Leroy has been very involved in Parisian artistic life and was considered as one of the most important Orientalist painter of his time. He was a fervent lover of North Africa, and especially Egypt, Turkey and Algeria. A passionate collector, he assembled an important collection of Islamic earthenware and Berberian fabrics. Thanks to the gift of many objects from the studio of his friend the painter Charles Landelle, he had a huge collection of Turkish and Persian earthenware.

Among his most famous artworks, we can now see at the Louvre Museum "Tisseuses à Biskra" and also "L'intérieur saharien" bought by the Musée du Luxembourg.

Museums

Musée du Louvre Paris

Musée de Norfolk (USA)

Musée de Lausanne

Musée de Liège (Belgique)

Musée d'Ajaccio

Musée de Lille

Musée du Havre

Bibliography

Un maître de la peinture française Paul Leroy (1860-1942), Sa vie et son oeuvre, Catalogue by Sacha Leroy, 1974
Léonce Bénédict, La Peinture française au XIXème siècle, Flammarion, p.205