



Etienne Dinet

1861-1929

Man's portrait

Drawing in pencil and white gouache signed in Arabic Haj Nasr ad Dine in lower right

Dimensions : 23,5 x 15,5 cm

Dimensions : 9.06 x 5.91 inch

Literature : Reproduced in the monograph : La vie et l'oeuvre d'Etienne Dinet - édition ACR, n°502

Origin : Private collection, France



Dimensions with frame : 34,7 x 26 cm  
Dimensions with frame : 13.39 x 10.24 inch

## Biography

Alphonse-Étienne Dinet was born in 1861 in Paris in a bourgeois family from Loiret. He was a very successful student at the School of Fine Arts in Paris. In 1884, he was awarded a medal and a grant at the Salon des Arts Plastiques at the Palais de l'Industrie.

He left for Algeria, a country he already visited in 1883 and made a great journey to Ouargla and Laghouat. The discovery of the country profoundly changed the life of Dinet. On his return to Paris in 1889, he presented at the Universal Exhibition a series of paintings made in Bou-Saâda and won a silver medal.

Astonished by the magnificence of southern Algeria, he moved in 1905 to Bou-Saâda, his second homeland, to live there permanently. Fluent in Arabic - he learned Arabic in Paris with his friend the orientalist Paul Leroy - Dinet discovered the local life thanks to Sliman Ben Ibrahim whom he met in 1889. Together, they travelled the desert, and Dinet became familiar with the nomadic and Bedouin tribes, discovering the Berber traditions. He converted to Islam in 1913, becoming Nasr-Ed-Dine Dini, then Hajj-Nasr-Ed-Dine Dini in 1929, after his pilgrimage to Mecca.

He exhibited at the Colonial Exhibitions in 1906 and 1922 and took part in the Salons of Algiers. He left the French Artists Salon, but contributed regularly to the Salons of the Orientalist Painting Society where he was an important member.

After the First World War, his technique relaxed, with acidic, pink, turquoise, mauve and blue colors. Dinet was little appreciated in France at this time, where his style was judged too academic, but the French of Algeria continued to like his work.

Dinet died on December 24th in Paris. The funeral was celebrated at the Mosque of Paris, before the burial at Bou-Saâda, in the funeral kouba he built. Étienne Dinet is now among the most sought-after Orientalist painters.

## Museums

Musée d'Orsay, Paris

Musée de Fécamp

Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon

Musée des Beaux-Arts de Pau

Musée des Beaux-Arts de Reims

Musée des Beaux-Arts d'Alger

## Bibliography

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Brahimi Denise, Les Terrasses de Bou-Saâda : essai sur la vie et les écrits du peintre Étienne Nasreddine Dinet, éd. ENAG, Alger, 1986

Dinet-Rollince Jeanne, La Vie de E. Dinet, Paris, G.P. Maisonneuve, 1938

Pouillon François, Les Deux Vies d'Étienne Dinet, Paris, Balland, 1997