



Anatolio Scifoni

1841-1884

The young Cleopatra and the fortune teller

Oil on canvas signed, situated and dated Roma 1870 lower left

Dimensions : 76,6 x 110,5 cm

Dimensions : 29.92 x 43.31 inch

Exhibition : Amateurs Society of Culture in Rome, titled Cleopatra giovinetta consulta un'indovina, 1870



Dimensions with frame : 105 x 138,5 cm  
Dimensions with frame : 41.34 x 54.33 inch

Our painting has been exhibited in 1870 during the Amateurs Society of Culture in Rome, titled Cleopatra giovinetta consultaen'indovina (The Young Cleopatra and the augur). It is the reflection of the fulfilment of the artist through neo-pompeian style and the influence of Egyptian art in the second part of the 19th century. In the heart of an extravagantly decorated Palace, seated on her throne covered with damask fabric and ornamented with lion head, Cleopatra is carefully listening to the augur. In front of the protective god Ra, an old woman is interpreting the signs she read in the stars. In the Ancient Egypt, divination was very common. Mixing mathematics, science and religion, the prediction was everywhere and set the tempo of everyday life in the city. The god Isis and many of Egyptian gods are represented in the background.

A mystical and mysterious atmosphere emanates from this painting. The abundance of the colours and details plunge us into the private life and also the legend of the Egyptian queen. Anatolio Scifoni realized through this painting a fantastic piece of art with a great sense of precision.

## Biography

Anatolio Scifoni was an Italian painter, born in Florence in 1841. Son of the poet Luigi Scifoni and the painter Ida Botti Scifoni, the young boy grew up between artists and intellectuals. Ida Botti was famous for landscape and portrait painting and was the art teacher of Princess Mathilde Bonaparte who was Emperor Napoleon's niece.

The young artist began to learn at the Academy Albertina in Turin, before entering the Fine-Art Institute of Moscow and then improving his art in Paris and Rome. He became friend with painter Lorenzo Delleani during his stays in Turin. From 1860 to 1866, he exhibited at the Salon in Turin, where he gained his first successes. He definitively settled in Rome in 1870 and changed his style to adopt an "archeological" painting. Greatly influenced by the Ancient civilization of the peninsula, he travelled to Pompeii many times. From then on, we can see in his painting women in toga and genre scene in the Ancient taste, mixing precision and delicacy. A large public enjoyed his bright works that he exhibited in Paris, Rome, as well as in London, Vienna or Philadelphia.

His acquaintance with some members of the royal family allowed him to obtain some orders from the court that helped him to become an unmissable painter in the Italian capital. He became knight of the Order of the Crown Italy, a recompense created in 1868 by king Victor-Emmanuel II.

## Bibliography

Bénézit, Dictionnaire des peintres, sculpteurs, dessinateurs et graveurs, Gründ, 1999.  
Istituto Matteucci