



Hermann David Salomon Corrodi
1844-1905

Panoramic view of Cairo
Oil on canvas signed lower left
Dimensions : 65 x 123 cm
Dimensions : 25.59 x 48.43 inch

Exhibition : "Napoléon et l'Egypte. De l'expédition à la Description" Museum of Saint-Germain-en-Laye from 4 to 26 September 2021
Origin : Private collection, France



Dimensions with frame : 93 x 153 cm
Dimensions with frame : 36.61 x 60.24 inch

This panoramic view of the Cairo skyline takes in an array of monuments, minarets, and mosques, while evoking of everyday life of Bedouin traders camping outside the city walls, presumably to sell and buy goods. On the right stands the walled mosque and mausoleum complex of Sultan al-Ashraf Qaytbay, the outer dome of whose mosque is often cited as the apogee of Mamluk dome design in Cairo due to its complex stone-carved decorative pattern, which features a central geometric star radiating from the apex of the dome and an arabesque floral design which are superimposed and enhanced by natural shadows. Corrodi brilliantly captures the view it bathed in the evening desert light.

Biography

Primarily a landscape artist, who became famous as an orientalist painter, Hermann Corrodi was born in Italy (Frascati) in 1844. He died in Roma in 1905.

He grew up in an artistic family and, from 1860, he studied in the studio of Alexandre Calame in Geneva. In 1866, he entered the Fine Art Academy in Roma, studying with his father, the artist Salomon Corrodi.

He then travelled throughout Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, visiting Egypt, Syria, Cyprus, Constantinopolis and Montenegro, soon building an international reputation as a genre and landscape painter.

In 1872, he studied in Paris, exhibited his works at Munich International Exhibition, and travelled to London where the Royal Family purchased several of his paintings. In 1873, he was awarded a Gold medal at the Vienna Universal Exhibition. From 1876, he used to spend winters in Roma and summers in Baden-Baden, where the German aristocracy commissioned his works, as Kayser Wilhelm II who acquired his "Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem". He was very appreciated by the English Royal Court and exhibited frequently in London; in 1881 "Storm in the desert, Egypt" was presented at The Royal Academy. He also exhibited in Roma, Vienna and Paris (1900 International Exhibition), receiving many prizes and honours.

In 1893, he was knighted 'Accademico di Merito' by the Academia de San Luca where he had been a long time professor. He painted in his studio in Roma, inspired by the sketches and studies he had accumulated during his numerous journeys in the Middle East and using many oriental artefacts he had brought back with him.

His style is academic, his paintings are mostly orientalist landscapes, oriental streets and markets scenes, depicted in a combination of earthy and bright colours, very often with the Egyptian pyramids in the background.

Museums

The Frye Art Museum, USA

The Dahesh Museum of Art, New York

Museo di Roma in Trastevere, Rome

Qatar Museums Authority, Doha

Bibliography

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Schurr & Cabanne, " Les Petits Maîtres de la peinture, 1820-1920 ", Ed. de l'Amateur, Paris 1996.

Juler C., " Les Orientalistes de l'Ecole Italienne ", ACR édition, 1992.

Thornton Lynne, " Les Orientalistes, peintres voyageurs, 1828-1908 ", paris 1983.