



Narcisse Berchère

1812-1891

Mosque Abou Leila, Cairo

Oil on canvas signed lower left

Dimensions : 60 x 47 cm

Dimensions : 23.62 x 18.50 inch

Literature : This painting is presented in the biography of N. Berchère written by Bernard Prost in 1885

Exhibition : Narcisse Berchère de l'Orient au Pays d'Etampes, Musée d'Etampes May 18 - September 22, 2019

Origin : Private Collection, Scarborough, New York;

Dimensions with frame : 82 x 69,5 cm
Dimensions with frame : 32.28 x 27.17 inch

Biography

Painter, engraver and lithographer, Narcisse Berchère spent his childhood in Etampes, in the French countryside. He started studying at the Paris Fine-Art Academy with Renoux and Charles Remon but having discovered Theodore Rousseau and Corot, and under the influence of the Barbizon School artists, he soon travelled through France, visiting Fontainebleau, Brittany and Normandy, where he painted his first landscapes in monochromatic subdued tones.

In 1847, he travelled to the South of France, Spain and the Middle-East and his palette brightened and warmed up. In 1849-50, he was hired as a draughtman by the archaeologist Caignart de Saulcy on a journey through Lebanon, Palestine and Egypt.

In 1856, he returned to Egypt and the Sinai desert with Leon Belly, Jean-Léon Gérôme and the sculptor Bartholdi. In 1869, together with the artists Gérôme, Fromentin, Tournemine, Frère and with Imperatrice Eugénie, he was there again to celebrate the opening of the Suez Canal. He became famous for his views of the Nile and the desert, depicting oriental architectures, oases, landscapes and Arab settlements, some in a neo-impressionist style, others with a realist and detailed brushwork. ("Thebes", "The Simoun", "Giseh", "Camel riders by the Nile", "Fellah women by the Nile", "Fellah children").

He started exhibiting at the Salon in 1843 with great success. In 1866, he presented a very substantial picture, "Caravans gathering at the night-watch, Oued el Had", which was highly praised by the public and art critics and purchased by the Luxembourg Museum in Paris. In 1855, he received a medal at the Universal exhibition. From 1859, he was regularly awarded prizes and honours, including the French Légion d'honneur in 1870.

He died near Paris in September 1891, as a master of the French Orientalist School.

Museums

Algiers, the Museum of Fine Art.

Paris, the National museum of African and Oceanian art

Museums of Fine Art : Bernais, Etampes, Moulins, Mulhouse, Orleans, Pontoise, Rennes, Tours.

Bibliography

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Thornton Lynne " Les Orientalistes, peintres voyageurs ", ACR Edition, Paris, 1993