

Jean-Léon Gérôme



1824-1904 | FRENCH

Le Marabout: In the Harem Bath

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Oil on canvas | Circa 1889
Signed "J.L. Gérôme" (lower left)

Canvas: 18 7/8" high x 25" wide | 47.8 cm x 63.5 cm

Frame: 29 3/4" high x 36 3/4" wide x 4" deep

75.6 cm x 93.4 cm x 10.2 cm

“

There is no living painter
whose mind can be
called so interesting as
the mind of Gérôme.

– Edward Strahan, Art historian and critic

”



Jean-Léon Gérôme is widely regarded as one of the most important painters of the nineteenth century. Renowned for his unrivaled command of the human figure, he was among the most celebrated artists of his time. Though his oeuvre encompassed a wide range of subjects, Gérôme's Orientalist scenes were the most sought after. Dated 1899, *Le Marabout: In the Harem Bath* is an exceptional example of his intimate bather compositions and ranks among the few works of this scale and significance remaining in private hands.

Gérôme's harem bathers were an instant sensation with his audiences, inviting them into a mystical, faraway world. During his travels to Bursa in 1879, he visited the famed Turkish baths, going to great lengths to make careful studies of the experience—including sketching “in the buff,” as he once told a friend, to completely immerse himself in the relaxed atmosphere and luxurious architecture.

Back in his Paris studio, Gérôme's firsthand observations enabled him to recreate the fantastical magic of these baths. *Le Marabout: In the Harem Bath* reveals Gérôme's incredible ability to render these enticing interiors with intimacy and authenticity—even though he, of course, was never allowed into the women's bathing quarters himself.

Featuring several of Gérôme's iconic female figures, the work epitomizes his singular ability to render the human form and complexion with remarkable accuracy. The women are depicted with stunning naturalism, their pearl-white skin suffused with luminosity. Even the marabout assumes an anthropomorphic presence, standing amused yet authoritative as it keeps watch over the bath.

Every inch of this canvas is an absolute masterclass in painting. Gérôme's skill was so widely admired that he was appointed as one of just three instructors at the *École des Beaux-Arts*. He would go on to teach over 2,000 students there (including Mary Cassatt and Thomas Eakins) and publish the most important instructional book on drawing that would influence many artists, including William Bouguereau, Odilon Redon and Pablo Picasso.

Similar examples of Gérôme's harem bathers reside in prestigious museums, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and the State Hermitage Collection in St. Petersburg. When one takes into account that Jean-Léon Gérôme, along with William Bouguereau, was by far the most important Academic painter of his day, and Gérôme himself was the most famed Orientalist painter of his time, and that the artist's harem bath scenes are his most iconic works of art—it is clear that this masterwork stands as an extraordinary opportunity to own one of art history's greatest treasures.



PROVENANCE

Boussod, Valadon & Cie., Paris

Knoedler, New York

Acquired from the above by Schaus, New York

Tomkins Collection, New York

American Art Association, 5 March 1915

Acquired at the above sale by J. Frick

John Hemming Fry, Ohio

Bequeathed by the above to the Canton Museum of Art, Ohio

M.S. Rau, New Orleans

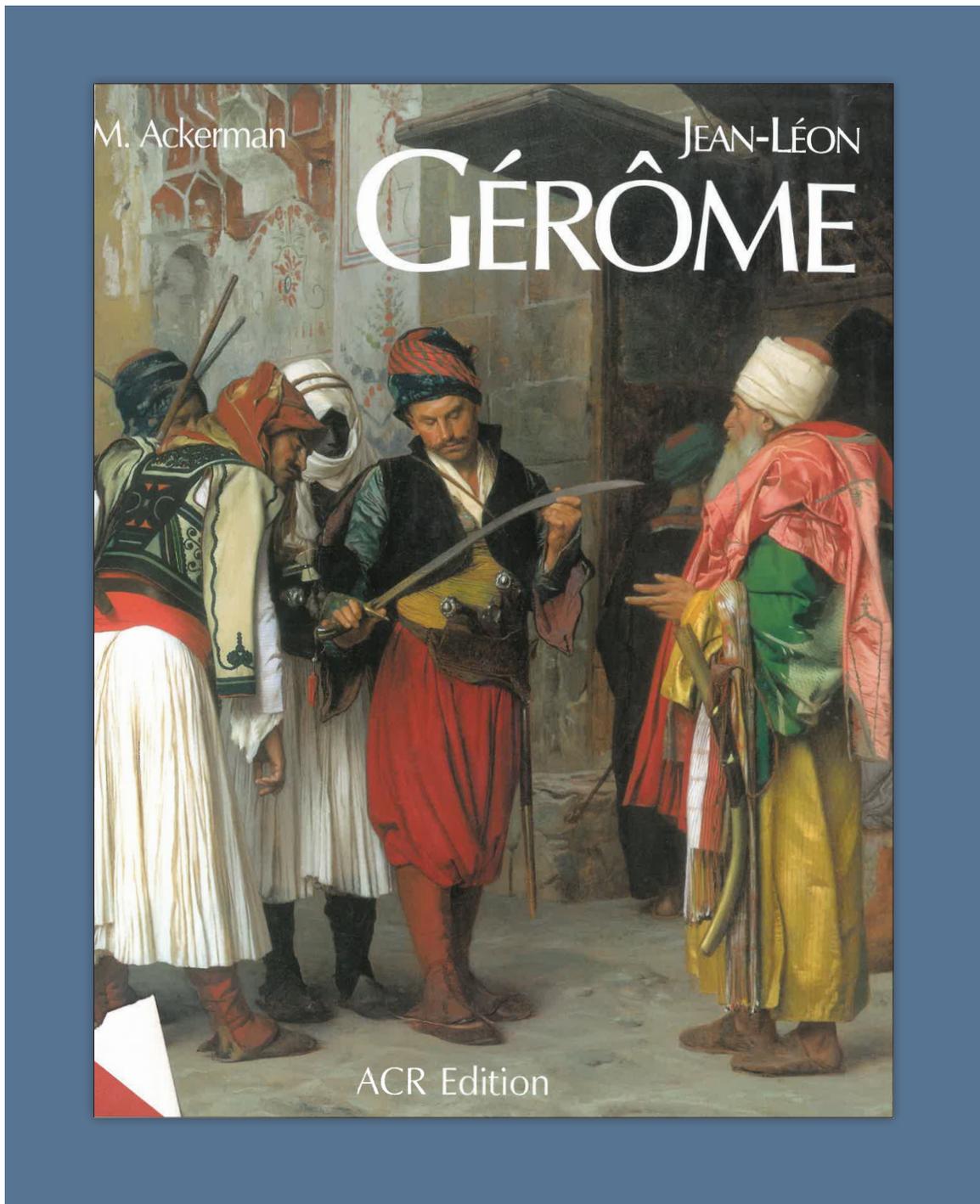
Private collection, United States

M.S. Rau, New Orleans

LITERATURE

G. Ackerman, *Jean-Léon Gérôme*, Paris, 2000, p. 326, no. 374 (illustrated)





G. Ackerman, *Jean-Léon Gérôme*, Paris, 2000, p. 326, no. 374 (illustrated)



Jean-Léon Gérôme

370 Béatitude

1892. Perdu.
49,5 x 69 cm.

Historique : Gérôme à Bousod, Valadon & Cie, 1892. B.V. & Cie à Bleiman, New York, 1892.

Commentaire : Gérôme dit à Hering que cette peinture d'un lion avait été exécutée d'après sa sculpture d'un lion, *Béatitude*, présentée au Salon de 1891 (voir notre sculpture n° S 19).

Bibliographie : *Œuvres de J.-L. Gérôme* (Bibliothèque nationale, Paris), XIII, 16. Hering, p. 286.

370.3 Béatitude, ébauche

Vers 1890. Collection particulière.
Toile, 50 x 75 cm. Cachet d'atelier (vers 1975) en bas à droite.

Historique : Collection de la famille Kuntz. Hôtel Drouot, Paris, Gros & Delettrez commissaires-priseurs, 12 juin 1998, n° 162. Hôtel Drouot, Paris, Gros & Delettrez commissaires-priseurs, 29 novembre 1999, lot 107.

Commentaire : Le lion pluviot émouvant de ce tableau semble le même que celui du numéro précédent. Toutefois, la grotte de l'arrière-plan est très différente, et dans cette œuvre-ci le soleil de fin d'après-midi, incliné sur l'horizon, projette l'ombre du lion sur le mur derrière lui à gauche, tandis que dans le cat. n° 370, le soleil, qui se trouve à l'opposé, projette une ombre peu marquée vers la droite. Voir la sculpture appariée, cat. n° S. 19.

371 Le Marabout

1888-1889. Arnot Art Gallery, Elmira (État de New York).
Toile, 61 x 59,5 cm. Signé en bas à droite.

Historique : (Gérôme à Bousod, Valadon & Cie, 1888, puis à Wykoop, mais 72 x 58,5 cm). Matthias H. Arnot, Elmira, 1900 ; légué par lui au musée en 1910.

Commentaire : Il s'agit d'un modèle qui figurait déjà parmi les spectateurs du *Marchand de tapis* (n° 349) ; il fait ici sa première apparition, avant plusieurs autres, comme sujet unique d'une toile. Il se tient ici dans un passage, regardant un marabout (une sorte de cigogne) s'approcher. Puisqu'il tient un fouet, on peut s'imaginer qu'il s'agit d'un animal familier. Même modèle dans les deux toiles suivantes, ce qui renforce l'authenticité de ces toiles, par ailleurs maladroites (voir aussi n° 374).

Bibliographie : Elmira Art Gallery, *A Collector's Vision. The 1910 Bequest of Matthias Arnot*, Elmira (État de New York), 1989, n° 12.

372 Le Garde

1889. Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis (Indiana).
Toile, 54 x 46,5 cm. Signé en bas à gauche.

Historique : Gérôme à Bousod Valadon et Cie, Paris, 1888. PBNY, vente n° 1618, 26 octobre 1955, Marburg à Carter.

Bibliographie : Indianapolis Museum of Art, *Catalogue of European Painting*, 1970, n° 175. *Catalogue de Lexington*, 1973, n° 41.

373 Atelier de Gérôme : Arnaute à l'entrée d'une boutique

1889. Collection particulière.
Toile, 41 x 32 cm. Signature apocryphe en bas à gauche et inscription en cursive en haut à gauche : « à Mr E. Blumenstiel/J.L. Gérôme ».

Historique : Collection Blumenstiel, vente SPBLA, 28 février 1972, n° 20. Sotheby's, Londres, 11 juin 1975, n° 91a, puis 19 janvier 1981, n° 56. Sur le marché londonien, 1975. Charles Jerdein, Galerie d'Orsay, *J.-L. Gérôme, Maître de l'Orientalisme*, Paris, 1995. Salon des Beaux-Arts, Paris, 1995. Christie's, New York, 14 février 1996, n° 42.

Commentaire : La faiblesse du personnage, tant dans sa tenue que dans les vêtements, laisse penser que cette œuvre n'est vraisemblablement pas de la main de Gérôme. Le modèle, les accessoires, etc., ont tous été déjà vus dans d'autres œuvres de Gérôme. L'inscription semble trop travaillée.

326

374 Le Marabout

Vers 1889. Canton Art Institute, Canton (Ohio).
Toile, 50 x 66,7 cm. Signé en bas à gauche.

Historique : Bousod, Valadon & Cie, par l'intermédiaire de Knoedler, à Schaus, New York. Vente Tompkins, AAA, New York, 5 mars 1915, à J. Frick : 1 050 dollars. J.H. Fey, qui le donne à l'Institut.

Commentaire : Composition d'atelier peu travaillée, avec le marabout du n° 371.

375 Femmes au bain

Vers 1889. Collection Najd. c/o Mathaf Gallery, Londres.
Toile, 57,5 x 43,2 cm. Signé en bas à gauche.

Historique : Reproduit dans *Le Figaro illustré*, juillet 1901, sous le titre « Femmes au bain ». Hôtel Drouot, Rive Gauche, Paris, 25 novembre 1977, n° 59 sous le titre « Femmes au bain maure », 54,5 x 46,5 cm. Shepherd Gallery, *Spring Exhibition*, New York, 1983, n° 59. Mathaf Gallery, Londres.

Commentaire : Achevé et de belle facture. Voir notice suivante pour une variante ou une étude préparatoire.

Bibliographie : *Œuvres de J.-L. Gérôme* (Bibliothèque nationale, Paris), V, 3. *Le Figaro illustré*, juillet 1901, illustré. Caroline Juler, *Najd Collection of Orientalist Paintings*, Londres, 1991, p. 152d.

376 Femme nue, ébauche

Vers 1889. Collection particulière.
Toile, 41,3 x 32,4 cm. Signé en bas à gauche.

Commentaire : Le nu est plus vivant que dans la version très finie, n° 375.

377 Le Bain des femmes

Vers 1889. Collection Najd. c/o Mathaf Gallery, Londres.
Toile, 67,7 x 54,6 cm. Signé en bas à gauche sur le banc.

Historique : Bousod, Valadon & Cie à Tompkins. Vente Tompkins, AAA, New York, 5 mars 1915, n° 46, à P.W. Rouss, 525 dollars. 1981, Mathaf Gallery, Londres.

Bibliographie : Caroline Juler, *Najd Collection of Orientalist Paintings*, Londres, 1991, p. 152e.

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G. Ackerman, *Jean-Léon Gérôme*, Paris, 2000, p. 326, no. 374 (illustrated)

AUCTION COMPARABLES



Jean-Léon Gérôme
*Femme circassienne voilée,
veiled circassian beauty*

oil on canvas
Height 40.7 x Width 32.6 cm.
Height 16.024 x Width 12.835 in.
1876

02 July 2008 over 17 years ago

Christie's London
Orientalist Art – [Lot 00042]

est. 400,000 - 600,000 GBP **2,057,250** GBP ©
est. 797,607 - 1,196,410 USD **4,102,193** USD ©

↑ 243% est



Jean-Léon Gérôme
*RIDERS CROSSING THE
DESERT*

oil on panel
Height 41 x Width 56 cm.
Height 16.142 x Width 22.047 in.

22 October 2019 over 6 years ago

Sotheby's London
Important Works from the Najd Collection – [Lot 00014]

est. 3,000,000 - 5,000,000 GBP **3,135,000** GBP ©
est. 3,885,507 - 6,475,845 USD **4,060,354** USD ©



Jean-Léon Gérôme
*La grande piscine à Brusa (The
great bath at Bursa)*

oil on canvas
Height 70 x Width 100.5 cm.
Height 27.559 x Width 39.567 in.
1885

15 June 2004 over 21 years ago

Sotheby's London
19th Century European Paintings – [Lot 00112]

est. 900,000 - 1,200,000 GBP **1,909,600** GBP ©
est. 1,645,348 - 2,193,797 USD **3,491,063** USD ©

↑ 59% est



Jean-Léon Gérôme
THE HAREM IN THE KIOSK

oil on canvas
Height 76 x Width 112 cm.
Height 29.921 x Width 44.094 in.

22 October 2019 over 6 years ago

Sotheby's London
Important Works from the Najd Collection – [Lot 00029]

est. 3,000,000 - 5,000,000 GBP **2,655,000** GBP ©
est. 3,885,507 - 6,475,845 USD **3,438,673** USD ©





Jean-Léon Gérôme

Markos Botsaris

oil on canvas
Height 70.2 x Width 54.6 cm.
Height 27.638 x Width 21.496 in.
1874

28 October 2019 *over 6 years ago*

Christie's New York
European Art Part I – [Lot 00216]

est. 2,800,000 - 3,800,000 USD **3,375,000** USD ©



Jean-Léon Gérôme

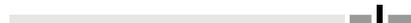
Rüstem Pasha mosque, Istanbul

oil on canvas
Height 67.6 x Width 88.5 cm.
Height 26.614 x Width 34.843 in.

18 April 2008 *almost 18 years ago*

Sotheby's New York
19th Century European Art including The Orientalist Sale – [Lot 00193]

est. 1,800,000 - 2,200,000 USD **1,945,000** USD ©



Jean-Léon Gérôme

La mosquée bleue

oil on canvas
Height 72.4 x Width 102.2 cm.
Height 28.504 x Width 40.236 in.

14 June 2006 *over 19 years ago*

Christie's London
19th Century European Art – [Lot 00026]

est. 800,000 - 1,200,000 GBP **1,038,400** GBP ©

est. 1,481,481 - 2,222,222 USD **1,922,962** USD ©



Jean-Léon Gérôme

Intérieur grec. Le gynécée

oil on canvas
Height 64.5 x Width 89 cm.
Height 25.394 x Width 35.039 in.
1850

03 June 2003 *over 22 years ago*

Sotheby's London
19th Century European Paintings including German, Austrian, Hungarian & Slavic Works and the Scandinavian Sale – [Lot 00134]

est. 400,000 - 600,000 GBP **1,125,600** GBP ©

est. 651,359 - 977,039 USD **1,832,927** USD ©



Jean-Léon Gérôme

Une plaisanterie, Arnaute fumant au nez d'un chien, un lévrier qui n'aime pas le tabac

oil on canvas
Height 60 x Width 73 cm.
Height 23.622 x Width 28.74 in.
1882

25 November 2009 *about 16 years ago*

Christie's London
Orientalist Masterpieces Including an Important Private Collection – [Lot 00006]

est. 800,000 - 1,200,000 GBP **1,105,250** GBP ©

est. 1,326,699 - 1,990,049 USD **1,832,918** USD ©





Jean-Léon Gérôme
Un bain maure (Femme turque au bain)
 oil on canvas
 Height 81.5 x Width 65.5 cm.
 Height 32.087 x Width 25.787 in.
 1874–1877

21 November 1996 over 29 years ago

Christie's London
 19th Century Continental Pictures, Watercolours and Master Drawings – [Lot 00242]

est. 300,000 - 500,000 GBP **892,500 GBP** ©

est. 506,585 - 844,309 USD **1,507,092 USD** ©



Jean-Léon Gérôme
After the bath
 oil on canvas
 Height 82.6 x Width 66.7 cm.
 Height 32.52 x Width 26.26 in.

04 November 2010 over 15 years ago

Sotheby's New York
 19th Century European Art – [Lot 00011]

est. 1,500,000 - 2,500,000 USD **1,482,500 USD** ©



Jean-Léon Gérôme
The terrace of the Seraglio
 oil on canvas
 Height 82 x Width 122 cm.
 Height 32.283 x Width 48.031 in.
 1886

11 November 1998 over 27 years ago

Christie's New York
 The Age of Elegance – [Lot 00134]

est. 1,500,000 - 2,000,000 USD **1,322,500 USD** ©



Jean-Léon Gérôme
Le barde noir
 oil on canvas
 Height 61.2 x Width 50.8 cm.
 Height 24.094 x Width 20 in.

23 October 2008 over 17 years ago

Sotheby's New York
 19th Century European Art including The Orientalist Sale – [Lot 00168]

est. 700,000 - 1,000,000 USD **1,172,500 USD**

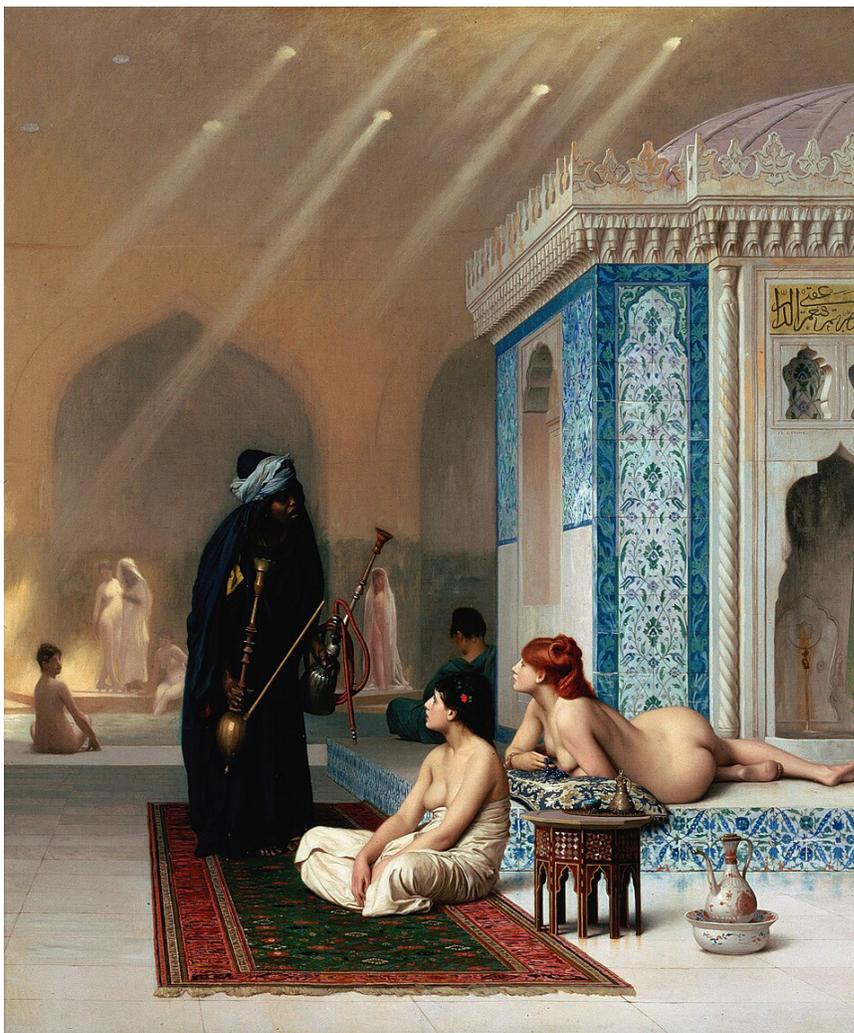


Jean-Léon Gérôme | *Pool in a Harem*

1876

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 29 x 24 inches | 73.5 x 62 cm



ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ
ЭРМИТАЖ
The State Hermitage Museum



The State Hermitage Museum
St. Petersburg, Russia



Jean-Léon Gérôme | *Moorish Bath*

1870

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 20 x 16 inches | 50.8 x 40.6 cm



MFABoston

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Boston, MA, United States



Jean-Léon Gérôme | *The Bath*

1880-85

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 29 x 23^{1/2} inches | 73.7 x 59.7 cm



de Young \
Legion of Honor
fine arts museums
of san francisco

Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco
San Francisco, CA, United States



Jean-Léon Gérôme | *The Snake Charmer*

Circa 1879

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 32^{3/8} x 47^{5/8} inches | 82.2 x 121 cm



**THE
CLARK**

The Clark Art Institute
Williamstown, MA, United States



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