



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Otto Pilny (1866 - 1936) -- Cairo, Dromedaries In The Desert, 1901

15 000 EUR



Signature : Otto Pilny

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Description

Cairo, Dromedaries in the Desert, 1901 Oil on canvas, signed, dated and located Cairo, 1901 lower right. 73 x 92 cm Provenance: Private collection, South of France Otto Pilny: Painter of the Silences of the Orient Otto Pilny was a Swiss Orientalist painter of Czech origin, famous for his sensitive and nuanced depictions of the Arab world. Born in Prague on June 28, 1866, he moved to Zurich, Switzerland, at a very young age, where he began his artistic training. However, it was in North Africa, and more specifically in Arab Africa, that he drew the essence of his work. As a teenager, Pilny undertook caravan journeys

Dealer

Galerie Alexis Pentcheff

19th & 20th centuries paintings

Mobile : 0682729579

10 Chemin du Génie

Marseille 13007

through Egypt, Libya, and Algeria,
first as a draftsman and later as an independent
painter. Fascinated by nomadic
life, prayer, local traditions, and vast desert
landscapes, he developed a
deeply human perspective on the societies he
discovered.

Unlike some
Orientalists of his time, Otto Pilny did not
succumb to exotic stereotypes or
theatrical staging. His work shows a sincere
respect for the cultures he
represents. He paints with great precision the
rituals, faces, fabrics, and
postures of Muslim figures in their daily
lives--especially scenes of prayer,
which became his specialty. His subtle treatment
of light and gestures gives
his paintings a quiet, almost meditative intensity.

Based in
Zurich, Pilny continued to travel regularly to
North Africa throughout his
career. His work was widely acclaimed in
German-speaking countries. In 1924, he
was even appointed official painter to the King of
Egypt, attesting to local
recognition of the authenticity of his vision.

Otto Pilny
died in Zurich in 1936, leaving behind a rare
body of work marked by dignity,
calm, and depth. Through his paintings, he offers
an intimate and respectful
view of the Orient, far removed from the
fantasized visions of the 19th-century
West.