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Francisque Noailly (1855-1942) Young Shoe Shiner A Scene From Algiers Francisque Noailly



1 200 EUR

Signature : Francisque Noailly

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting on cardboard

Description

Francisque Noailly (1855-1942) Young Shoe Shiner -- Scene from Algiers Francisque Noailly (1855-1942) Oil on cardboard, signed lower right "Francisque Noailly." A charming and particularly lively Orientalist scene depicting a young Algerian shoeshine boy, recognizable by his shoeshine box slung over his shoulder. Barefoot, wearing a red chechia and dressed in a dark jacket and light-colored breeches, the young boy is depicted taking a break, leaning against an elegant cast-iron streetlamp while lighting a cigarette. This highly spontaneous scene reflects Francisque Noailly's interest in ordinary people and scenes of daily life in Algeria. Here, the artist does not seek to create a monumental, picturesque scene; rather, she captures a moment of urban life with keen observational skill and

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remarkable attention to the character's posture, clothing, and the details of his surroundings. Young shoe shiners were a familiar sight on the streets of Algerian cities. Historical accounts describe these young boys carrying their shoe-shining boxes and offering their services to passersby. This iconography significantly enhances the work's documentary and ethnographic value.

Francisque Noailly, Painter of Algeria

Born in Marseille in 1855, Francisque Noailly studied at the Beaux-Arts in Marseille and later in Paris under William Bouguereau and Tony Robert-Fleury. After completing his military service in Algeria beginning in 1875, he settled in Algiers and established his studio in the La Redoute neighborhood. He became one of the leading figures in Algiers' artistic life. As director of the École d'Arts Industriels d'Alger-Mustapha, a professor at the Société des Beaux-Arts, and vice president of the Société des Artistes Orientalistes Algériens, he devoted a significant portion of his work to landscapes, figures, and scenes of Algerian life. His work is particularly appreciated for the confidence of his drawing and the precision of his observation--qualities highlighted by art historian Élisabeth Cazenave.

Notably, Noailly received the Grand Prix from the Artistic Union of North Africa in 1935. A particularly remarkable collection

The work is preserved in its original antique frame made of carved fir wood, exceptionally decorated with geometric motifs, stars, diamonds, and interlacing patterns inspired by Algerian and Orientalist styles. The richness of this frame, which harmonizes perfectly with the depicted subject, greatly enhances the decorative impact of the ensemble and reflects the era's taste for frames inspired by North African craftsmanship.

A work full of charm, combining the skill of a renowned Orientalist painter, a particularly evocative scene of Algerian life, and a remarkable carved period frame.

Artist: Francisque Noailly
(1855-1942) Technique: oil on cardboard
Signature: lower right Subject: young

shoe shiner, scene from Algiers
Dimensions of the artwork: 23 × 32.5 cm
Dimensions with frame: 42 × 53 cm
Period: late 19th - early 20th century
School: Algerian Orientalism
Frame: carved fir wood, with Algerian- and Oriental-inspired decoration