

# STEPHEN ONGPIN FINE ART



**Antoine CALBET**

## **Two Women on a Balcony**

Black and white chalk, with touches of red, green, yellow and blue chalk, on buff paper.

Signed A Calbet in pencil at the lower left.

499 x 324 mm. (19 5/8 x 12 3/4 in.)

A stylistically related drawing by Calbet, of slightly smaller dimensions and showing just the woman at the right, was on the art market in Germany in 2010.

## **Exhibitions**

Possibly Paris, Galeries Georges Petit, Exposition A. Calbet: Aquarelles & Dessins, 1909, no.39 ('Deux élégantes').

## **Artist description:**

A pupil of Alexandre Cabanel and Emile-François Michel, Antoine Calbet also studied with the genre painter Edouard Antoine Marsal. He made his public exhibition debut at the Salon de la Société des Artistes Français in 1880, and continued to take part in the Paris Salons until 1940. A gifted watercolourist as well as a portrait and genre painter, Calbet had a particular penchant for studies of languid female nudes. He also worked as a decorative painter, counting among his public commissions

the decoration of several theatres, as well as the buffet restaurant in the Gare de Lyon in Paris and the restaurant La Grande Taverne in Dijon, for which he painted a Scène de Brasserie.

Antoine Calbet is perhaps known today, however, for his book illustrations, having taken over the commissions of the Czech artist Ludek Marold when the latter returned to Prague. Among the works illustrated by Calbet were editions of Emile Zola's *Madame Neigeon*, Guy de Maupassant's *Bel ami*, Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *Confessions* and Paul Verlaine's *Fêtes galantes*. He also provided illustrations for magazine short stories, such as Henri de Régnier's *Le veuvage de Shéhérazade*, published in the Christmas 1925 issue of *L'Illustration*. An exhibition of Calbet's drawings and watercolours was held at the Galerie Georges Petit in Paris in 1909, and another at the Galerie Graat in Paris in 1932.