Stephen Ongpin Fine Art



Alfred DEHODENCQ (Paris 1822 - Paris 1882)

Portrait of the Artist's Son, Edmond Dehodencq

Pen and brown ink and watercolour.

Inscribed portrait d'Edmond Dehodencq / le plus jeune fils du Maitre / Edmond Dehodencq, mort très jeune, presque / enfant encore, montrant les plus extraordinaires / dispositions pour la Peinture. Il aurait / ete surement un Artiste de valeur on the verso.

Further inscribed Portrait d'Edmond Dehodencq / par son père Alfred Dehodencq on the old backing board.

163 x 120 mm. (6 3/8 x 4 3/14 in.)

The present sheet is a portrait of the artist's young son Edmond Dehodencq (1860-1887). Edmond was also a painter, and trained with his father, but died young, at the age of twenty-seven. He made his debut at the Salon in 1873 with a still life of oranges and pomegranates, and, apart from still life subjects, also painted genre scenes and pastoral views.

Alfred Dehodencq produced a number of charming paintings and drawings of his young children, such as a depiction of Edmond in the act of drawing and a study of three of the children also engaged in drawing, both of which were in 1910 in the collection of the artist's son, Alfred Dehodencq, or a sketch of The Children of the Artist which once belonged to the artist's friend and biographer, Gabriel Séailles. The culmination of Dehodencq's depictions of his children occurs in the finished painting Interior (The Children of the Artist) of 1872.

This watercolour portrait sketch once belonged to the painter Georges Antoine Rochegrosse (1859-1938), who was a young pupil of Alfred Dehodencq at the very beginning of his career. Among Rochegrosse's earliest exhibited works were scenes from literature, Egyptian, Roman and Byzantine history, but by the 1890s he was working in a more Symbolist vein. By the turn of the century Rochegrosse had come to be known as a fashionable painter of Orientalist and mythological subjects, finding inspiration for much of his work in his travels throughout North Africa. Dehodencq is known to have produced a portrait of Rochegrosse as a young boy.

Artist description:

The French Orientalist painter Edme Alexis Alfred Dehodencq was a pupil of Léon Cogniet, entering the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris in 1839. He made his Salon debut five years later. In 1849 he travelled to Spain, where he spent five years, producing paintings and drawings of scenes from Spanish life. In 1854 Dehodencq visited Morocco for the first time. He became the first Western artist to work extensively in the country, and divided his time between Cadiz and Tangiers until his return to France in 1863. A number of his genre scenes, depicting life in the Arab and Jewish communities of Morocco, were sent to Paris for exhibition at the Salons. After his early successes, however, Dehodencq died in obscurity. He left a large group of drawings, many of which are now in the Louvre and the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Lille, while others are in the collection of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.