

LG EXPERTISE

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Frédéric Arthur BRIDGMAN (1847-1928)

«Village in the Sahara»

American School

Oil on canvas, signed lower right.

46.5 x 65 cm

75 x 93 cm (with frame)

Bears an old label « Village in the Sahara FA Bridgman
146 bd Malesherbes For Royal Academy »



Bridgman made his debut in 1863 as an engraver at the American Banknote Company, and later worked as a steel engraver. He came to Paris in 1866 and worked in Jean-Léon Gérôme's studio at the *École des Beaux-Arts*. He stayed in Brittany and Pont-Aven until 1871, then went to North Africa and Egypt in 1877, where he stayed for five years. He regularly took part in the Parisian Salons, like the *Artistes Français*, but also in London, at the Royal Academy and Suffolk Street. He was also present at the Universal Exhibitions of 1878, 1889 and 1900, receiving a silver medal at each of them.

Awarded the *Légion d'Honneur* in 1878, he was made an officer in 1907. He was a member of the National Academy in New York in 1881 and of the *Société des Artistes Peintres* in Paris.

His travels in North Africa and Egypt radically changed his palette, which became much clearer. A photographer himself, he often worked from his photographs, presenting a world of veiled women, richly adorned, playing with transparencies and white-on-white effects.

As well as these scenes from everyday life, he also painted historical subjects from ancient Egypt and Assyria, such as "Pharaoh crossing the Red Sea".

A cultivated man, Bridgman studied musical composition with Charles-Marie Widor, wrote several volumes on art, and published "Winters in Algiers" in New York in 1890, illustrated with his own paintings.

Bibliography:

Gerald Schurr, « Les petits maîtres de la peinture 1820-1920, valeur de demain », Paris, 1979.

Lynne Thornton : « Les Orientalistes peintres voyageurs » Editions ACR, 1994

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