



Balthasar-Charles Larpeur  
*Portrait of an Ottoman Noble, 1845*

BALTHASAR-CHARLES LARPEN TEUR  
(Versailles 1783-1846)

*PORTRAIT OF AN OTTOMAN NOBLE, 1845*

Signed and dated lower right: "Larpenteur. 1845"

Oil on canvas  
80 x 63 cm; 31 1/2 x 34 3/4 in.

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Provenance

*Arts of the Islamic World & India including Fine Rugs and Carpets*, Sotheby's London, March 2022, Lot. 75;  
*Tableaux Dessins Sculptures 1300–1900*, Sotheby's Paris, November 2022, Lot. 55;  
Private Collection, France.



A 19th-century French painter, Baltazar-Charles Larpenteur trained under Perrat, in a context still marked by the legacy of Neoclassicism and the primacy of drawing. He devoted himself mainly to portraiture, a genre in which he focused most of his activity and for which he was regularly recognised by official institutions.

Larpenteur participated regularly in the Paris Salons throughout his career, presenting mainly portraits. The consistency of his submissions attests not only to an established professional practice, but also to an ability to meet the expectations of a clientele sensitive to the faithful, dignified and characteristic representation of models. His works show particular attention to physiognomy, pose and the rendering of fabrics, placing his work in the tradition of ceremonial portraits and bourgeois portraits of the early 19th century.

Larpenteur's paintings reveal a solid mastery of academic codes, combined with a measured sense of psychological observation. Without seeking spectacular effects, he favours the legibility of the figure and the presence of the model, giving his portraits an elegant sobriety and a quality of resemblance appreciated by his contemporaries.

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