

ARY JAN
ART GALLERY

COLNAGHI

KENT
ANTIQUES



Alberto Pasini

By the Fountain of Hatice Turhan Sultan in Constantinople

ALBERTO PASINI

(Busseto 1826–1899 Cavoretto)

BY THE FOUNTAIN OF HATICE TURHAN SULTAN IN CONSTANTINOPLE, C. 1870

Signed lower left: "A. Pasini"

Oil on canvas

35 x 27 cm; 13 3/4 x 10 1/2 in.

Provenance

Private Collection, Italy;

The Orientalist Sale, Sotheby's London, October 2022, Lot. 35;

Private Collection, London.



By the Fountain affirms Pasini's reputation as both an excellent draughtsman and meticulous colourist. The painting captures the viewer's attention at once with wonderful details from daily life. Street sellers negotiate deals and entice customers, tethered horses patiently await the return of their owners, men standing with weapons converse intently, bright green watermelons populate the foreground - one already split open to reveal a juicy pink interior, a lady clothed in pear green stands to the edge of the market and behind the steps smoke rises through the beige awnings, under which a crowd of people congregate.

The building with grilled windows in the centre is the public fountain of Hatice Turhan Sultan (d. 1683), Sultan Mehmed IV's (r. 1648-1687) mother. The fountain, which is in the Eminönü district, was built in 1664 as part of the magnificent Yeni Mosque complex. The accurate depiction of the fountain attests Pasini's direct, realistic depiction, based on his extensive travels.

Alberto Pasini was born in Busseto in 3 September 1826. At the age of seventeen he entered the Academy of Fine Art of Parma. He studied landscape painting and drawing. In Parma he was supported by his uncle Antonio Pasini. In 1852 he exhibited a series of thirty designs. He was noticed by the artist Paolo Toschi who encouraged Pasini to travel to Paris where he joined the workshop of Pierre-Luc-Charles and Eugène Cicéri. In 1853 his lithograph of *The Evening* gained him admittance to the Paris Salon and to the workshop of the famous Théodore Chassériau.

Pasini first travelled to Constantinople on his landmark journey to the East accompanying the French Minister and diplomat Nicolas Prosper Bourré in 1855, which marks the beginning of his career as an Orientalist painter. He also travelled to Tehran, through Egypt, and Armenia. In subsequent trips, he visited Egypt, the Red Sea, Arabia. In 1862 at Istanbul, he painted a picture depicting a *Victory of the Turks* led by Sultan Abdulmecid (r. 1839-1861). Later, in 1867, he received a commission from Sultan Abdulaziz (r. 1861-1876) for four other paintings, now in the Dolmabahçe Palace, and stayed until in Istanbul 1869. During his sojourns there, Pasini was clearly inspired by the city's unique and richly ornate architecture and customs. He made

numerous *en plein air* sketches which were used as inspiration - along with memory and notes - after he returned to Paris and Italy. He was a regular exhibitor at the Paris Salon. He died in 1899.