

COLNAGHI

PRESS RELEASE

DREAMS AND JOURNEYS: REVISITING ORIENTALISM

Colnaghi London— October 28, 2025 – January 9, 2026

Colnaghi London is pleased to announce its forthcoming exhibition, *Dreams and Journeys: Revisiting Orientalism*.

Dreams and Journeys: Revisiting Orientalism brings together a selection of paintings and drawings, with plans for the show to travel to the Middle East for a second presentation. Colnaghi first developed a department dedicated to Islamic, Indian, and 19th-century Orientalist art in the 1970s under Jacob Rothschild, and this marks the first new exhibition in this area for over fifty years. A bilingual catalogue in Arabic and English accompanies the show.

On view from 28 October 2025 to 9 January 2026 at Colnaghi London, this exhibition examines the sustained interest of American, British, and European artists in the people, places, and cultures of the Arabian Peninsula, the Levant, North Africa, and Anatolia during the 19th century, and will be on view until 9 January 2026. This field of art and topographical study continues to engage scholars and collectors, reflecting a broader fascination with how these regions were represented and imagined.

When Napoleon's army entered Egypt in 1798, the campaign was accompanied by scholars, scientists, archaeologists, and artists whose documentation of Egyptian civilisation helped shape European ideas about the region. The Orientalist movement that followed reflected both artistic and intellectual curiosity—an effort to visualise and interpret the cultures of the East from a Western perspective.

The artists represented in this exhibition come from America, France, Spain, Germany, Italy, England, Scotland, and Sweden, spanning the late eighteenth to early twentieth centuries. Some travelled extensively through North Africa and the Ottoman world, while others relied on imagination and studio reconstructions. Artists such as Alberto Pasini (1826–1899) and Jean-Léon Gérôme (1824–1904) documented the architecture and daily life they observed with great precision. Others, including J.M.W. Turner (1775–1851) and Jules Lefebvre (1836–1911), evoked these subjects through atmospheric and idealised imagery. Collectively, the works in *Dreams and Journeys* reveal how the Orient was understood both as a geographical reality and as a cultural construct shaped by Western interpretation.

Exhibition Information

Title: Dreams and Journeys: Revisiting Orientalism

Dates: October 28, 2025 – January 9, 2026

Location: Colnaghi, 26 Bury Street, London SW1Y 6AL, United Kingdom

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 10AM – 6PM

For inquiries: press@colnaghi.com

Website: <https://www.colnaghi.com/>



Thomas Seddon (London 1821–Cairo 1856), *The Marabout's Tomb*, 1854, oil on canvas, 46 x 35.5 cm (18¼ x 14 in), signed and dated lower left "T. Seddon / 1854".