



**'ODALISQUE' BY BARON CHARLES ARTHUR
BOURGEOIS**

Dimensions: H: 33 in / 83 cm

9206



L'Odalisque à la Verseuse
& Le Charmeur de Serpent

By Baron Charles Arthur Bourgeois (1838-1886)

A figural pair, both in cast bronze, now well patinated, the female figure rising from a circular base, cast with drapery, portraying an orientalist concubine wearing a loose skirt, her pendant pair is the famous snake charmer, also on a circular base, cast with a coiled snake, the loincloth-draped figure playing his woodwind instrument. Both inscribed with the artist's name "A. Bourgeois."

French, Circa 1860

Literature:

Born in Dijon in 1838, Baron Charles Arthur Bourgeois (1838-1886) entered the École des Beaux Arts in 1857 where he was a student of Duret and Guillaume. He was awarded the Prix de Rome in 1863, was a member of the Societe des Artistes Français, and exhibited at the Universelle Exposition of

1878.

His most celebrated works are his carefully observed exotic characters. Of these *Le Charmeur de Serpent*, exhibited at the Salon in 1864, is arguably his best known. This bronze was paired with his *Le Chasseur de Crocodile* (exhibited at the Salon in 1883) and stands in the Jardin des Plantes, Paris. Another bronze version of the *Charmeur* was commissioned by the French Royal household. Examples of his work may also be seen in the Louvre.

As a baron, Bourgeois is one of a small group of titled artist-sculptors of the era including Baron Marochetti and the Comte d'Orsay.

Benezit, E. *Dictionnaire Critique & Documentaire Des Peintres Sculpteurs Dessinateurs & Graveurs 14 Volumes*. France: Grund/Hilmarton Manor Press, 1999, Vol II.

Kjellberg, Pierre. *Bronzes of the 19th Century: Dictionary of Sculptors*. Atglen, PA: Schiffer Pub, 1994.