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Abstract

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Orient as an Inspiration. Archaeology of Ancient Near East in “Academic” Paintings

The end of Eighteenth and all Nineteenth centuries brought new inspirations derived from Orient, appearing in visual arts in orientalism. Its origin is combined with the political and economical expansion of the European states in the East. This expansion was accompanied by discovering new oriental ideas, originality, mystery, freedom and what is important for painters - new landscapes. Frequent journeys of poets and other artists fertilized minds of European artists with new themes, techniques and motifs. Also development of archaeology, and publications of monuments of ancient cultures of Egypt, Anatolia, Palestine, Persia – then parts of Ottoman Empire played the huge role. The artists used then contemporary oriental landscapes, but also they used ancient works of arts and artefacts, in the role of artistic quotation or as the theme of work. This context is very fascinating to research of ancient objects in new “academic” circumstances, and it also gives interesting sources to research of state of preservation of ancient monuments in previous times. Visualised works of arts from archaeological excavations, publications or records of travellers are good contribution to rediscovering known objects and to read them in new contexts.