

Daniel Katz Gallery

ANTIQUITY TO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY



Joaquín Sorolla y Bastida (Valencia 1863 - Cercedilla, near Madrid 1923)

El borracho, Zarauz

1910

Oil on canvas

115 x 140 cm

Signed and dated J. Sorolla

Sorolla spent the summer of 1910 in Zarauz with his family, preferring its restful calm to the hubbub of holiday makers at nearby San Sebastian. He needed the tranquility in order to paint new works for the exhibitions that he was building up for in Chicago and Saint Louis in early 1911. The compositions that he completed in Zarauz include some of his most remarkable large format figure painting, with splendid beach scenes featuring his wife Clotilde and their daughters in elegant flowing summer dresses and bonnets, as well as the local characters to be found in the town's bars and taverns, as in the present example. Other taverna-type subjects that he painted include *Roasting Sardines* and *The Cider Drinker*.

The principal figure of *El Borracho* was a local fisherman called Moscorra, who despite being the worse for drink seems able to maintain with some lucidity a dialogue with the artist. Sorolla was clearly intrigued by him, as he appears in at least one other of his compositions, now in the collection of Museo Sorolla, Madrid. Moscorra's open, trusting expression contrasts with the phlegmatic gaze of his white shirted companion who stares implacably out at the artist (and viewer) on the left. One can imagine the frenetic speed at which Sorolla worked to capture this moment, the painter's extraordinary facility with his paint brush clearly displayed in both the spontaneity and the verisimilitude of the moment depicted.

Provenance

Provenance:

- Estate of the artist (series A, n. 20)

- María Sorolla García

- Thence by descent to the present owner

Exhibitions

Exhibited:

- Chicago, The Art Institute, and Saint Louis, The City Art Museum, Paintings by Joaquín Sorolla y Bastida, 1911, n. 33 & 32
- Valencia, Ayuntamiento, Exposición Sorolla, 1944, n. 20 Madrid, 1956, n. 431
- Madrid, 1963, Casón del Buen Retiro, I Centenario del Nacimiento de Sorolla, n. 92
- Valencia, Centre del Carme & Barcelona, Caixa Forum, Los retratos del belle-epoque, 2011, n. 32

Literature:

Literature:

- Bernardino de Pantorba, La vida y la obra de Joaquín Sorolla, Madrid, 1970, n. 717
- Blanca Pons-Sorolla, Joaquín Sorolla, vida y obra, Madrid, 2001, p. 364, n. 224, illustrated
- Blanca Pons-Sorolla, Joaquín Sorolla, London, 2005, p. 230, n. 123, illustrated