

Albert Marquet

(1875–1947)

Images d'une petite ville arabe and other works

Paintings, watercolours and drawings



WOLSELEY FINE ARTS

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Catalogue de l'oeuvre peint, Skira/Wildenstein Milan/Paris 2001.

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9 November – 17 December 2005

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MMV

introduction

1920 was an important year in the life and career of Albert Marquet (1875–1947). Every winter he suffered serious bouts of 'flu, and on the advice of his doctor he left for warmer climes. Having already travelled in Morocco he decided on its neighbouring country Algeria. One of his letters of introduction allowed him to meet Marcelle Martinet, his future wife, who served him as an interpreter and guide on his travels through the country. Marcelle was born in Algeria in 1892 and was a writer of children's books, poetry and novels. After their marriage she published under the pseudonym of Marcelle Marty.

Marquet was a frequent traveller, especially in France and the rest of Europe but North Africa, and Algeria in particular, was a destination he kept returning to. On his first two trips to Algeria he was accompanied by his long-term partner and model Yvonne but he soon broke with her as he grew fonder of Marcelle.

On 10 February 1923 he married Marcelle Martinet in Algiers. They travelled to Tunisia and rented a house in Sidi-bou-Saïd where they stayed

for six months, briefly interrupted by trips to Tunis and one trip to France. Marcelle became very fond of the Tunisians and wrote about the village life, while Marquet painted and drew. This culminated in Marcelle's book: *Images d'une petite ville arabe*, an account of their stay illustrated with copper engravings derived from Marquet's drawings.

Every winter the couple returned to Algeria, as Marquet knew his wife loved her country and he himself never lacked inspiration or subjects for his paintings there. In 1941 they bought a property near Algiers called Djenan Sidi Saïd. It had a garden of almost two acres and a spacious house. Marquet was forced to spend his days there until the end of World War II; he could not return to France because of his political points of view against the German regime.

In 1945, when the war was over, Marquet returned to France. The winter of 1946 he spent again in Algeria but in January 1947 he had to return to Paris, where he underwent an operation for bowel cancer. He never fully recovered and died on June 14.



1 **Scène de marché** c. 1924

Pencil and watercolour on paper

17.1 × 24.8 cm

Signed lower right

Provenance: Galerie Aktuaryus, Strasburg

Private collection, Switzerland

This work has been recorded in the Marquet archives of the Wildenstein Institute.

In the mid 1920s Marquet paints a series of 'heavily' populated works. This work is dated to that period on stylistical grounds. In 1924 Marquet travels through France in his old Ford, visiting Bretagne driving from there to the South East. The car breaks down frequently and at the end of June they find themselves in his home town of Bordeaux, where Marquet had not returned since he left for Paris aged 15. From there they travel to Bayonne, the Pyrenées and Sète.



2 **St Jean de Luz** 1927

Watercolour

11.2 × 16.7 cm

Signed and inscribed lower right

In September 1927 Marquet and Marcelle decide to spend a few months in St Jean de Luz, to get away from the rainy summer they spent in Normandy. They had a very pleasant autumn there, according to Marcelle.



- 3 **Céret 1940**
Pencil and watercolour on paper
22.8 × 31.7 cm
Signed lower left
Provenance: L'Arc en ciel gallery, Paris
Private collection, France

Marquet signed the protest of artists and intellectuals against Nazism and conditions in Paris became uncomfortable for him. He is invited by his friend, the ceramicist Artigas, to spend the summer with him in his house Villa La Flore in Céret in the Pyrenées. The war puts pressure on Marquet and his friends and they spend the summer worrying about the war. At the end of September they leave France for Algeria, where Marquet will be exiled until the end of the Second World War in 1945.



4 **Le Chevalet** 1944

Oil on canvas laid down on panel

21.2 × 12.7 cm

Signed lower right

Provenance:

The artist's estate

Mme Albert Marquet

J.P. Bénard, acquired from the above in
1955

JPL Fine Arts

A private family trust acquired from the
above in 1987

Literature: J.C. Martinet & G. Wildenstein,
*Marquet, L'Afrique du Nord, catalogue de
l'oeuvre peint*, Paris 2001, no. I-497,

Illustrated page 366

In 1941 Marcelle and Albert Marquet buy a property in the area of Montplaisant, outside Bab-el-Oud on the coast of Algeria. This is Marquet's studio at Montplaisant. As he was more or less confined to Djenan Sidi Saïd, his house in Algeria from 1941 to 1946, and the surrounding area, he made a series of paintings of the interior of his studio.



5 **Bab-el-Oued vu de Montplaisant, Alger** c.1944/45

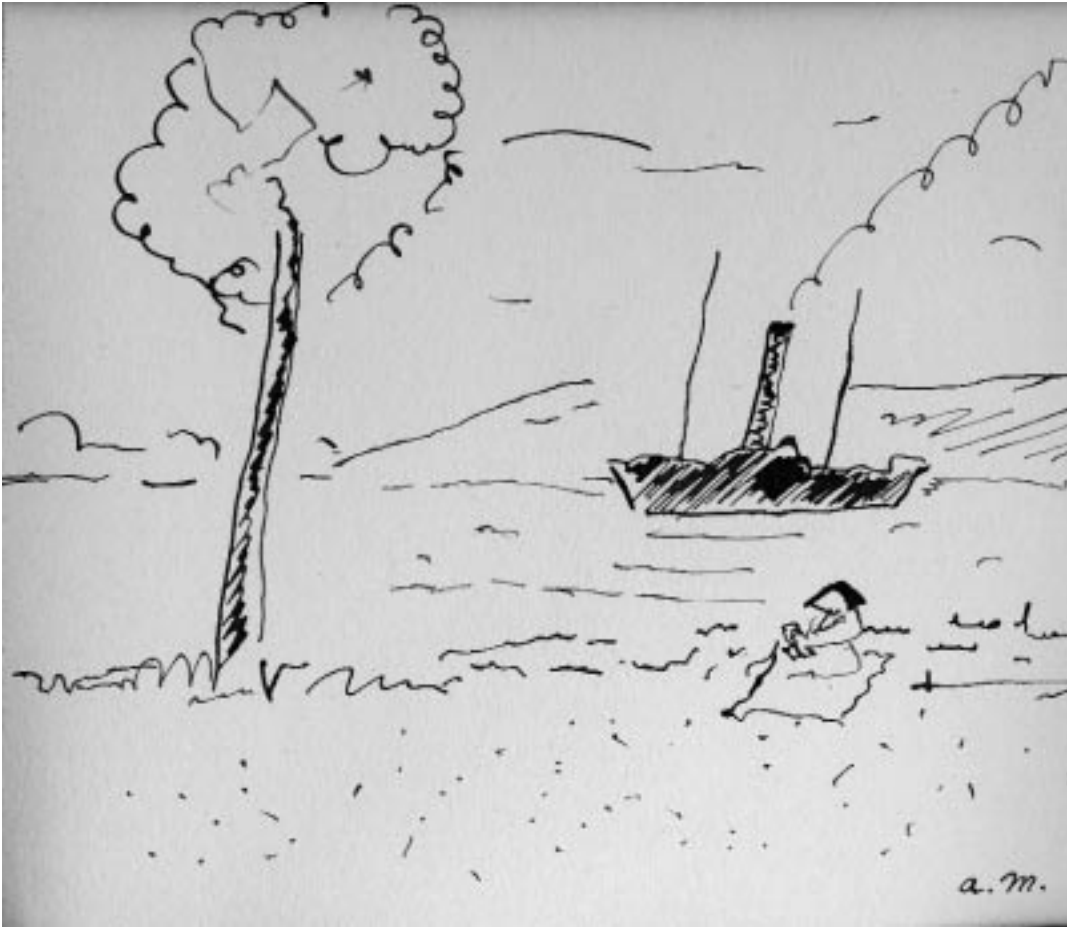
Oil on board

12.8 × 21.3 cm

Signed lower left

The work has been authenticated by the Wildenstein Institute.

Between 1941 and 1945, when he returns again for Paris, Marquet paints a series of views of the bay of Bab-el-Oued from his house in Montplaisant. Towards the end of his enforced stay there he is getting annoyed having to paint the same views and subjects over and over again and is keen to travel back to France. All works made at Montplaisant are difficult to date accurately but certainly date from 1941 to 1946.



6 **Le Vapeur**, c. 1905
Pen and ink
12,5 × 14 cm
Signed with initials lower right
The work has been authenticated by the Wildenstein
Institute.

Images d'une petite ville arabe

The following drawings (cat. nos. 7–33) almost all date from 1923, a decisive year in Marquet's life and career. On 10 February he married Marcelle Martinet in Algiers and the newlyweds spent six months in Sidi-Bou-Saïd in Tunisia. This was a period of great happiness as we can read from Marcelle's writings: 'This six months stay at Sidi-Bou-Saïd is a memory suspended in heaven, surrounded by intense light and happiness ... If we would not have left after six months we would have risked spending the rest of our lives there' (M. Marquet, *Marquet*, Lausanne & Paris, 1968, pp 74–82)

His marriage and his idyllic stay in Tunisia give these drawings a softness in technique and a heightened attention to detail. In one stroke he manages to depict form as well as movement.

The drawings were made to illustrate the book *Images d'une petite ville arabe* written by Marcelle and published in France by Editions Manuel Bruker in 1947 in a limited edition of 200 copies and one for the artist. References are given to the location of the copper engravings derived from the drawings as Marty and the page number.

- 7 **Autoportrait** 1915
Ink on paper
15.6 × 12 cm
(M&W page 25)
Illustrated frontispiece





8 **Trois portraits en buste de Marcelle Marquet**
Ink on paper
20.6 × 25.4 cm



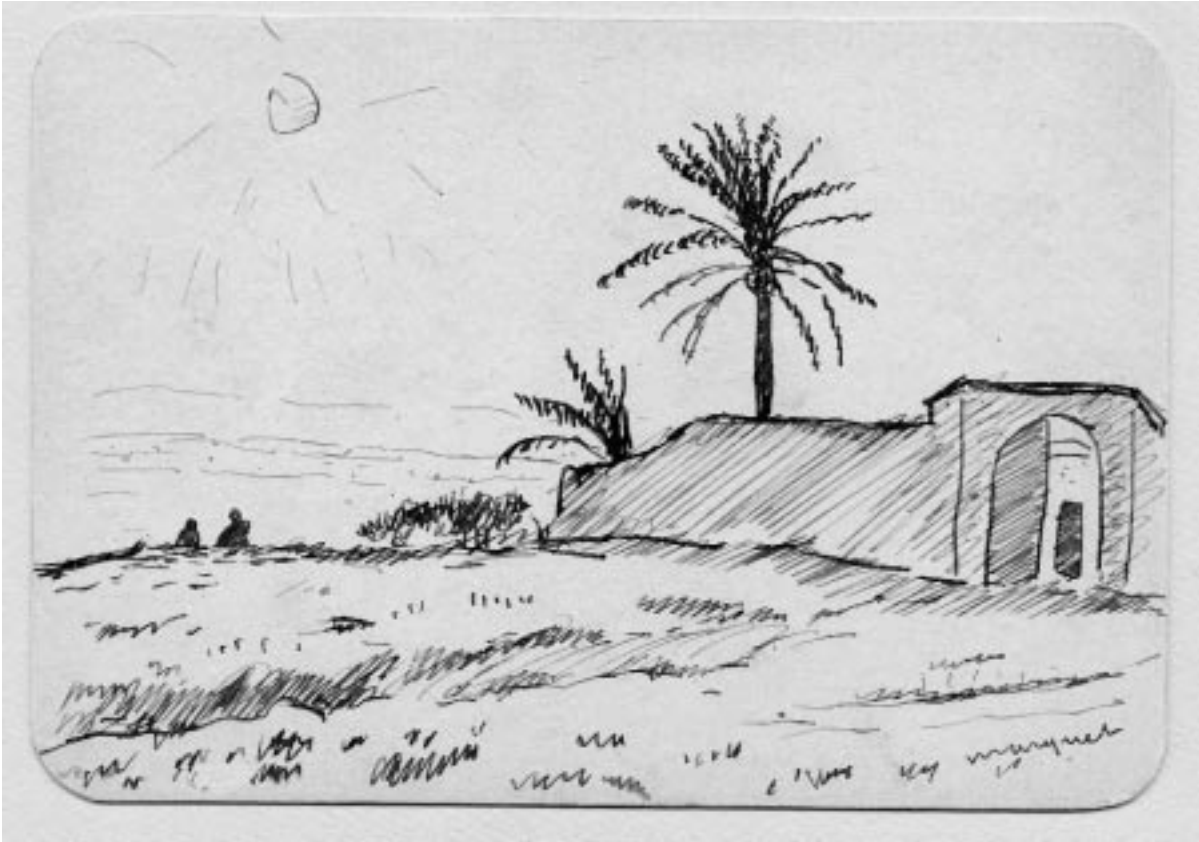
9 **Vue de Sidi-bou-Said** 1923

Ink on paper

13.4 × 17.6 cm

(M&W page 433)

Engraved for Martyr on the frontispiece



10 **Mausolée de Sidi Adh-Dharif** 1923

Ink on paper

10.4 × 15 cm

Signed Marquet lower right.

A study for the painting at the Museum of Modern Art, Stockholm (M&W I-663)

Engraved for Marty page 9 and also reproduced on a ceramic tile in Marquet's bathroom in the rue Dauphine in Paris (M&W page 47) M&W page 477

In 1931 Marquet buys his apartment in the Rue Dauphine in Paris. He decides to decorate the bathroom with ceramic tiles and tile tableaux, based on drawings made during his many travels. He is helped in this by his friend the ceramicist Artigas.

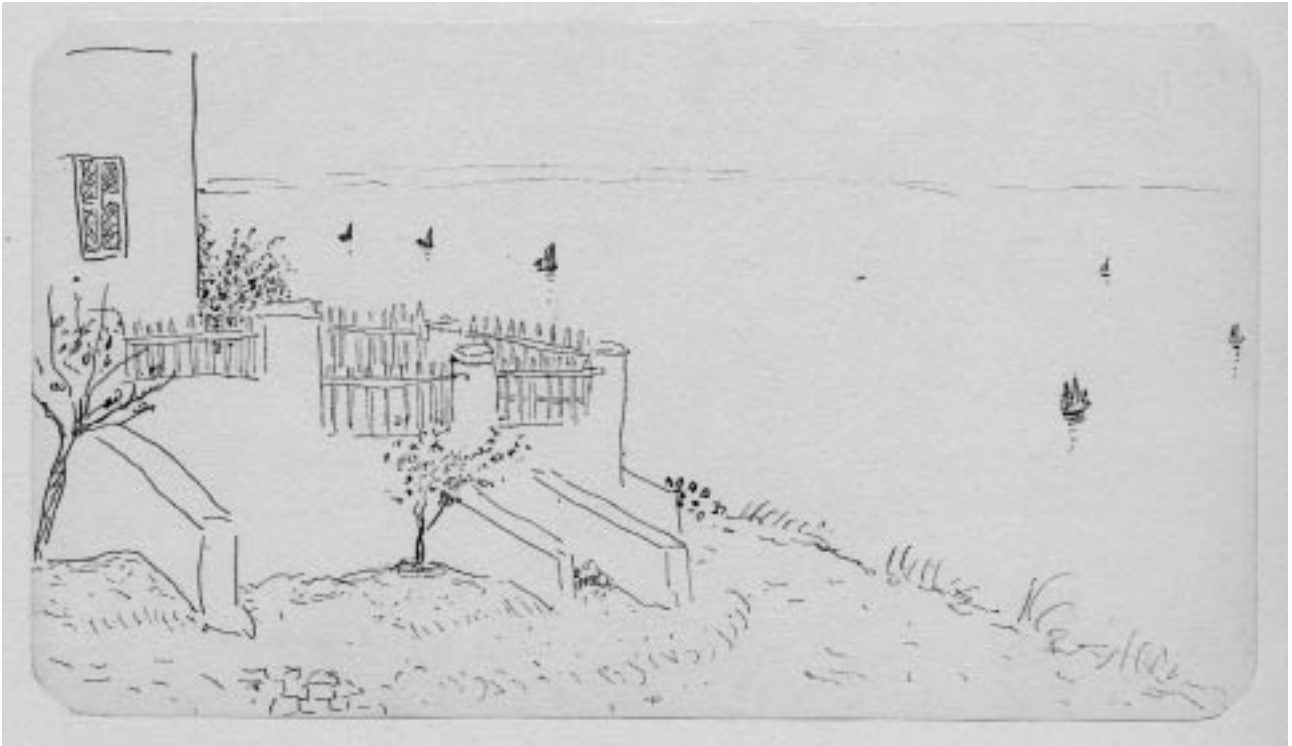


11 **Un bédouin qui fume**

Ink on paper

20.7 × 13.5 cm

Engraved for Marty page 14 (M&W
page 431)



12 **Un maison sur la mer**
Ink on paper
11 × 19.3 cm
Engraved for Marty page 15 (M&W page 37)



13 **Une ville sur la mer avec deux minarets**

Ink on paper

8.5 × 11.5 cm

Engraved for Marty page 21



14 Une vue de la baie Sidi-bou-Saïd, une maison sur la gauche 1923

Ink on paper

10.4 × 14.9 cm

A study for a painting in a private collection (M&W no. I-647)

Engraved for Marty page 23 (M&W page 467)



15 **Portrait de jeune fille en buste**
Ink on paper
17.8 × 11.6 cm
Engraved for Marty page 28



16 Un vue de Sidi-bou-Saïd de la terrasse de la villa
Erlanger 1923

Ink on paper

10.8 × 19.3 cm

A study for a painting in a private collection (M&W no. I-629)

Engraved for Marty page 29 (M&W page 459)



17 **Les souks**
Ink on paper
11.4 × 17.1 cm
Engraved for Martyr page 35 (M&W page 37)



18 **Une rue de village**

Ink on paper

15.9 × 10.7 cm

Engraved for Marty page 39



19 **Un arabe assis près d'une table**

Ink on paper

17.1 × 13.3 cm

Engraved for Marty page 45

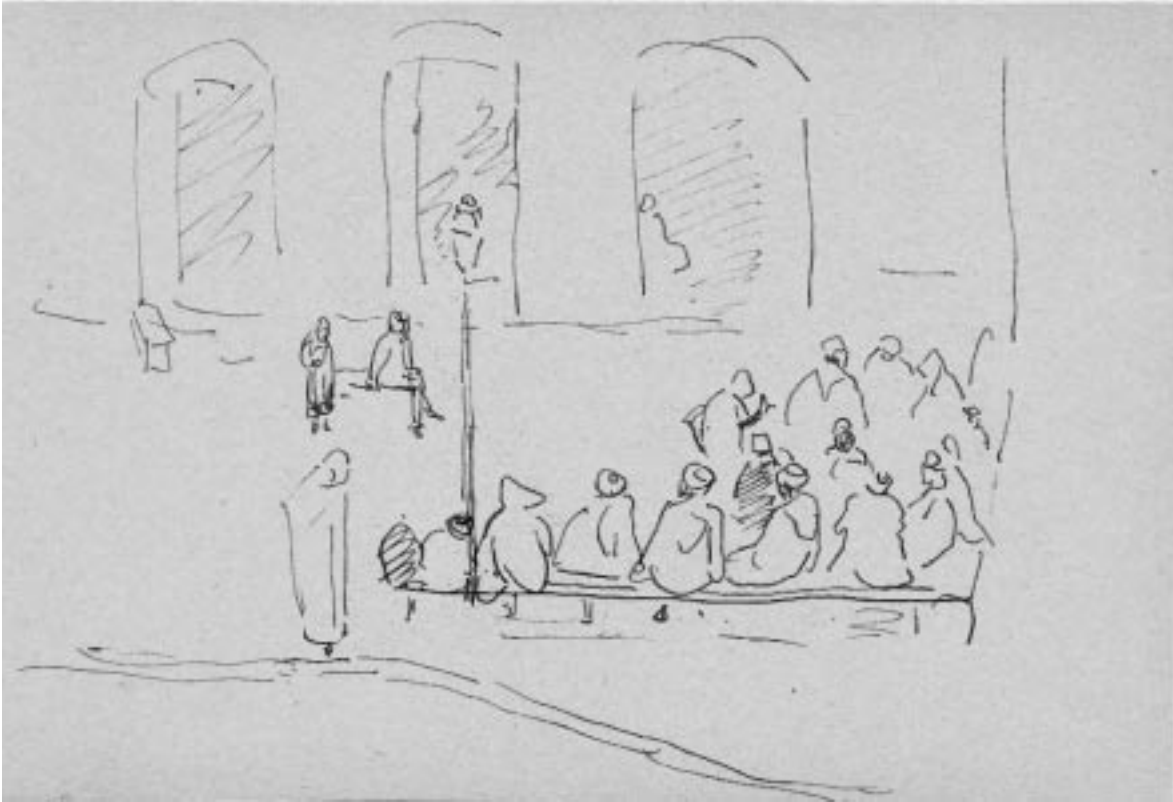
(M&W page 51)



20 Une falaise surplombant la mer avec bateaux
Ink on paper
10.3 × 15 cm
Engraved for Marty page 47



21 **Une jeune fille brodant
près d'une fenêtre**
Ink on paper
17.2 × 13.7 cm
Engraved for Marty page 54
(M&W page 37)



22 **Un groupe d'arabes assis dans une rue**

Ink on paper

10.6 × 15.6 cm

Engraved for Marty page 55

23 **Femme arabe dans un
paysage**
Ink on paper
19,3 × 11 cm
Engraved for Marty page 60
(M&W page 36)





24 Une ville avec un minaret dans le lointain
Ink on paper
11 × 16.1 cm
Engraved for Marty page 61 (M&W page 367)

25 **Jeune fille assise, appuyé contre un mur tenant sur ses genoux une corbeille de fruits**

Ink on paper

19.2 × 11 cm

Engraved for Marty page 65





26 **Un groupe d'arabes assis dehors en discussion**
Ink on paper
10.3 × 16.1 cm
Engraved for Marty page 67 (M&W page 37)



27 Une oasis avec des palmiers et deux chameaux

Ink on paper

10,5 × 10,8 cm

Engraved for Marty page 73



28 Une vue de la maison Tébourski à Sidi-bou-Saïd

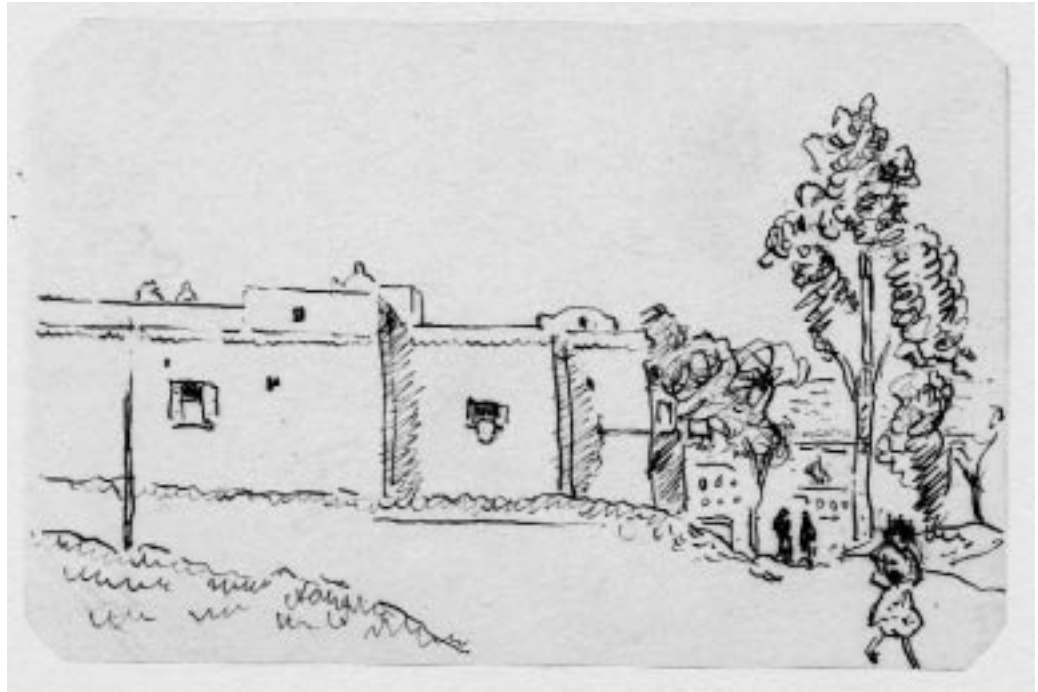
1923

Ink on paper

10.3 × 14.9 cm

A study for a painting in a private collection (M&W no. I-597)

Engraved for Marty page 75 (M&W page 442)



29 **Une maison dans une ville arabe**

Ink on paper

8,5 × 13 cm

Engraved for Marty page 81



30 **Une vache broutant dans un champs, une ville dans le lointain**

Ink on paper

10.3 × 15 cm

Engraved for Marty page 83



31 **Marcelle Marquet caressant une chèvre**

Ink on paper

11 × 19,3 cm

Engraved for Marty page 89



32 Une ville donnant sur la mer avec un bateau au fond
Ink on paper
9.1 × 16.8 cm
Engraved for Marty p.91



33 **Le golfe de Tunis avec trois-mâts** 1926

Ink on paper

9 × 12.7 cm

This drawing has been used for two paintings in private collections (M&W nos I-667 and I-668)

Engraved for Marty page 95 (M&W page 485)

chronology

- 1875 Born in Bordeaux, 26 March
- 1890 Moves to Paris with his mother and registers at the Ecole des Arts Décoratifs
- 1894–1898 Enters the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, where he studies with A. Moreau and Cormon. He attends the studio of Gustave Moreau, where he befriends Matisse.
- 1898 Paints his first ‘Fauvist’ work, a nude, shortly before he leaves Moreau’s studio
- 1900 Was hired with Matisse to paint the Art Nouveau ornaments of the Grand Palais for the Exposition Universelle
- 1901 Participated at the Salon des Indépendants
- 1902 Exhibited at Galerie Berthe Weil and Galerie Druet, Paris
- 1904 First exhibition at the Salon d’Automne
At the Salon he made his first sale to the State
- 1905–1906 High point of his Fauve work
- 1906 In Le Havre with Dufy
- 1907 Visits London. His mother dies
- 1908 Lives in Paris at 19 Quai Saint Michel. Friendships with Francis Jourdan and Manguin
- 1909 Travels to Hamburg and Naples
- 1913 In Tangiers with Matisse and Camoin
- 1914 Visits The Netherlands
- 1916 Visits Marseilles
- 1920 Visits Algiers for the first time
- 1923 Marries Marcelle Martinet and six-month period in Tunisia
- 1925 Visits Norway
- 1926 Visits Tunisia
- 1928–29 Visits Egypt and Algeria
- 1930 Visits Spain
- 1931 Moves to 1 Rue Dauphine, Paris
- 1933–34 Visits Roumania and USSR
- 1936 Visits Switzerland and Venice 4 four months)
- 1938 Visits Stockholm
- 1939–45 Lives in Algeria
- 1947 Dies in his Paris apartment on 14 June

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PRICE LIST

(November 2005)

	£	US\$	€
1. Scene de marché c1924	£13,000	\$22,750	19.000
2. St Jean de Luz 1927	£9,000	\$15,750	13.250
3. Céret 1940	£12,500	\$21,875	18.400
4. Le Chevalet 1944	£35,000	\$61,250	51.600
5. Bab-el-Oued vu de Montplaisant 1944/5	£19,000	\$33,250	28.000
6. Le vapeur c1905	£2,400	\$4,200	3.550
7. Autoportrait 1915	£3,500	\$6,125	5.150
8. Trois portraits en buste de Marcelle Marquet	£3,000	\$5,250	4.400
9. Vue de Sidi-bou-saïd 1923	£2,200	\$3,850	3.250
10. Mausolée de Sidi Adh-Dharif 1923	£1,800	\$3,150	2.650
11. Une bédouin qui fume	£1,300	\$2,275	1.900
12. Un maison sur la mer	£2,200	\$3,850	3.250
13. Une ville sur la mer avec deux minarets	£1,600	\$2,800	2.350
14. Une vue de la baie Sidi-bou-Saïd 1923	£1,800	\$3,150	2,650
15. Portrait de jeune femme en buste	£2,000	\$3,500	2,950
16. Vue de Sidi-bou-Saïd, terrasse villa Erlanger	£1,600	\$2,800	2.350
17. Les souks	£2,500	\$4,375	3.650
18. Une rue de village	£2,300	\$4,025	3.400
19. Un arabe assis près d'une table	£1,500	\$2,625	2.200
20. Une falaise surplombant la mer	£2,200	\$3,850	3.250
21. Une jeu fille brodant	£2.000	\$3,500	2.950
22. Un groupe d'arabes assis dans une rue	£2,400	\$4,200	3.550
23. Femme arabe dans un paysage	£2,000	\$3,500	2.950
24. Une ville avec un minaret	£2,200	\$3,850	3.250
25. Jeune fille assise, coirbeille de fruits	£1,800	\$3,150	2.650
26. Un groupe d'arabes assis dehors	£2,300	\$4,025	3.400
27. Une oasis avec des palmiers	£1,700	\$2,975	2.500
28. Une vue de la maisn Tébourski 1923	£2,200	\$3,850	3.250
29. Une maison dans une ville arabe	£1,600	\$2,800	2.350
30. Une vache broutant dans un champs	£1,400	\$2,450	2.050
31. Marcelle Marquet caressant une chèvre	£2,400	\$4,200	3.550
32. Une ville donnant su la mer	£1,800	\$3,150	2.650
33. Le golfe de Tunis arec trois-mâts 1926	£2,000	\$3,500	2.950

E & OE

Dollar and Euro prices are approximate and for guidance only

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