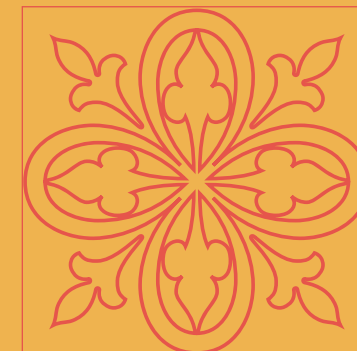


CHARLES WILDA  
(AUSTRIAN, 1854-1907)  
*The Snake Charmer*  
signed and dated 'Ch. Wilda. Paris 1883'  
(lower right)  
oil on panel  
16 x 10½ in. (40.5 x 27 cm.)  
£60,000-80,000

opposite:  
RUDOLF ERNST  
(AUSTRIAN, 1854-1932)  
*The Perfume Sellers* (detail)  
signed 'R. Ernst' (lower left)  
oil on panel  
24 x 19½ in. (61 x 49.5 cm.)  
£200,000-300,000



## AN ORIENT RECREATED

In the inviting scene, *The Perfume Sellers*, created by Rudolf Ernst, we trace the path of an artist who, like renowned contemporaries Jean-Léon Gérôme and Ludwig Deutsch, had amassed a substantial private collection of artifacts gathered on his personal tours of the Islamic world. It is reported that Ernst's studio was literally full of these many and various objects; tiles, lamps, pottery, silks, satins and kaftans numbering among them. In common with many other Orientalist artists, and like a skilled director on a film set, Ernst could write, and rewrite his script at

will, select his lighting, scenery and props, and cast his leading actors in their role; the effect lending a subtle theatricality to his tableaux. These were works with a desire to impart the essential atmospheric truth of a world which, for the vast majority of Europeans at the time, remained beyond their sphere of experience; a synthesis of the real and the ideal finalised far away from the exotic places depicted.