

Basic Detail Report



Dame turque sur divan

Date

ca. 1860-1889 (printed 1992)

Primary Maker

Adelphoi Zangaki

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

This salon view reveals a carefully staged and costumed odalisque, in a photograph taken by two brothers of Greek nationality known only as G. and C. Zangaki, who lived and worked in Egypt and Palestine beginning around 1870. Like Hippolyte Arnoux, who documented with his camera the construction of the Suez Canal, the Zangakis worked out of Port Said. Photographs like this answered a popular demand for the odalisque, a purported glimpse inside of the fabled harems of the Orient. Such disparate literary sources as Sir Richard Burton's translation of the Arabian Nights and travelers' descriptions of the Almées, or dancing courtesans of Egypt, blended together in the Western imagination, blurring the line between lascivious courtesans and the sequestered inhabitants of the harem, resulting in coquettish images like this one.

Dimensions

Sight: 9 3/4 x 12 in. (24.8 x 30.5 cm) Mat: 16 x 20 in. (40.6 x 50.8 cm)