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EST. 1817

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Victor Brugairolles (Ganges 1869 - Paris 1936)

Portrait of a sailor

Signed (top left): 'V.Brugairolles'

Oil on unlined canvas

11.1 in x 14.9 in. (46 x 38 cm)



Brugairolles came from the southern Languedoc region of France and went as a young man to Paris to study with the academic master Fernand Cormon (1845-1924) at the École des BeauxArts. He began exhibiting at the Salon in 1894 and was primarily a painter of picturesque landscapes and seascapes in France and Holland notable for their luminous effects of diffused light on land and water. He also depicted rural subjects and sensual figural subjects in fantastic colours which recalled his training with Cormon.

Works from his Symbolist period around 1895 – 1900 owe a clear debt to the ethereal, arcadian and mythic subjects of the older painter Pierre Puvis de Chavannes and his younger symbolist followers like Alphonse Osbert (1857-1939), who was also a student of Cormon. Paintings such as the 1895 *Le Berger et la Mer* (Fig. 1) demonstrate his fascination with the subject of the sea, and sailors, as does the present painting. This *Portrait of a sailor* is full of character and executed with a beautifully loose handling and impasto, which captures the spirit of the weathered sailors who the artist may have met around the harbours and seaside while he was painting his landscape works.

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Fig.1: Victor Bruguairolles, *Le Berger et la Mer*, 1895