

THE BOLERO - Clément Pujol de Guastavino (1850 – 1905)



In a courtyard surrounded by high archways an elegant lady sitting on a bench is watching a young woman dance to the sound of a flute, a tambourine and a mandolin played by three musicians.

Pujol de Guastavino was a Catalan painter who settled in Paris and changed his name from Clemente to Clément. He painted genre scenes and took to Orientalism, like his fellow-countryman Fortuny. The painting was exhibited at the 1880 Salon and the engraving illustrated above was published in the magazine *L'Univers Illustré* on November, 20th.

As usual the background has disappeared on the fan and the only element left is the oriental rug. The air must have cooled a little, for the lady is no longer using her fan, now resting on the bench next to her.

One can also notice a change of perspective: the scene is seen from a lower point of view than in the engraving.



As the original painting has not been located, I cannot say for sure if Lauronce's chromolithograph is faithful to the original colour scheme. But a study of the dancer, signed by Pujol, shows the light and bright touch for which the painter was renowned.



So Lauronce's print may be quite in keeping with its model.

The painting was well-known by fan painters, and leaves featuring parts of the original design are quite common.


