

COLNAGHI ELLIOTT

MASTER DRAWINGS

Charles Eugène David
(Active in Paris, 1870s to 1890s)

Portrait of M. Rouillard seated, with a cigarette in hand

Signed and dated upper right: *Ch. DAVID 1880*
Dedicated upper left: *A mon ami M. ROUILLARD*
Pencil on paper
33 x 26.7 cm. (13 x 10 ½ in.)

Provenance:
M. Rouillard, Paris, by 1880;
Pierrequin Philippe, Châlette-sur-Loing, 2023.



Very little is known about Charles Eugène David, not even his dates of birth or death. The catalogue for the Universelle Exposition of 1889, where he exhibited two portraits and was awarded a *Mention Honorable*, lists the artist as having been born in Paris and cites his teachers as Gustave Boulanger and Jules Lefebvre.¹ Beyond that, we know that David debuted at the Salon in 1878, was a member of the Société des Artistes Français from 1892 onwards and was made a Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur in 1903.²

Clearly a gifted draughtsman, David's graphic style, with its confident simplicity of line, fits into a tradition inaugurated by Ingres (fig. 1) at the beginning of the century and continued by his pupils, such as the Flandrin brothers (fig. 2) or Théodore Chassériau. David would have learned to draw in this way from Boulanger, himself a pupil of Paul Delaroche who, though not a student of Ingres, was deeply influenced by him.

The relaxed sitter in the present work, his arm casually draped over the back of the chair is only known by the inscription which identifies him as M. Rouillard, a friend of the artist.



Fig. 1, Jean-Dominique Ingres, *Portrait of Dr Louis Martinet*, 1826, pencil on paper, 32.3 x 24.7 cm, National Gallery of Art, Washington



Fig. 2, Hippolyte and Paul Flandrin, *Double Self-Portrait*, 1835, pencil on paper, 25.4 x 19.8 cm, Musée du Louvre

¹*Exposition Universelle Internationale de 1889 à Paris. Catalogue Général Officiel*, Lille 1889, vol. I, p. 60, no. 1487.

² Bénézit, *Dictionary of Artists*, 2006, vol. IV,