

# COLNAGHI



Domenico Morelli  
*Study of a man in Oriental costume, 1885*

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DOMENICO MORELLI  
(Italy 1826 – 1901)

*Study of a man in Oriental costume*, 1885

Ink on paper

34 x 37 cm

13 3/8 x 14 9/16 in.

Signed 'Morelli' centre right

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## Provenance

Private collection Turin; sold Wannenes, Genova, 18 to 19 March 2021, lot 1295.

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Subjects based on the Middle East account for a small, but very important part, of Morelli's painted oeuvre. He seems never to have visited the region, though he owned a large collection of photographs of sites in the Holy Land, and elsewhere. The model depicted by Morelli in the present sheet also appears in a painting of a Man playing a musical instrument, datable to the mid 1870s. Formerly in the Stevens-Ricciardi collection in Naples, the painting is today in a private collection (fig.1). A number of similar pen drawings by Morelli of men wearing turbans are also known: a very comparable example include a study formerly on the London art market and now in a private collection that is dated 1883 (fig.2), and a drawing of a Laughing seated man in the Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Turin. Interestingly, the same sitter most likely reappears in one of Morelli's most powerful paintings the Temptation of Saint Anthony dating from 1878 and today in the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna in Rome (fig.3).



Fig. 1 After Domenico Morelli, by A. Riera,  
Portrait of a man playing an instrument, mid-1870s  
From L'Illustrazione Italiana, 1883, no. 2, p.20.



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Fig. 2 Domenico Morelli, *Seated man*, 1883 Pen and brown ink, with touches of brown wash, private collection



Fig. 3 Domenico Morelli, *Temptation of Saint Anthony*, 1878 Oil on canvas, Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, Rome

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