

ELLIOTT FINE ART

Nineteenth Century to Early Modern

Paul Théophile Ernest Fraillion
(Montagu 1862 – 1925 Paris)

Bust-length portrait of a young man

Signed and dated: *P. Fraillion / 1892*

Pencil on paper

42 x 32 cm. (16 ½ x 12 ½ in.)

Provenance:

Private Collection, Bourgogne-France-Comté, until 2025.



Little is known about Paul Fraillion, though he exhibited at the Salon on nine occasions, showing primarily portraiture. His name frequently appears in contemporary exhibition reviews, where he is praised for his draughtsmanship.¹ According to the Salon catalogues, Fraillion studied under Léon Bonnat, Gustave Boulanger, and Jean-Léon Gérôme—three of the most eminent artists of late 19th-century France. The immediacy and directness of Fraillion’s portrait reflect the influence of these remarkable mentors (fig. 1).

Works on paper by Fraillion are rare, though the École des Beaux-Arts holds three academic studies from his student days. He was awarded third prize for his 1884 figure study (fig. 2) and for his *Apollo* of 1887, while his *Faun* earned second prize in 1889. The present drawing demonstrates Fraillion’s impressive graphic skill, with form and volume deftly constructed to create a powerful, expressive portrait full of character and presence.

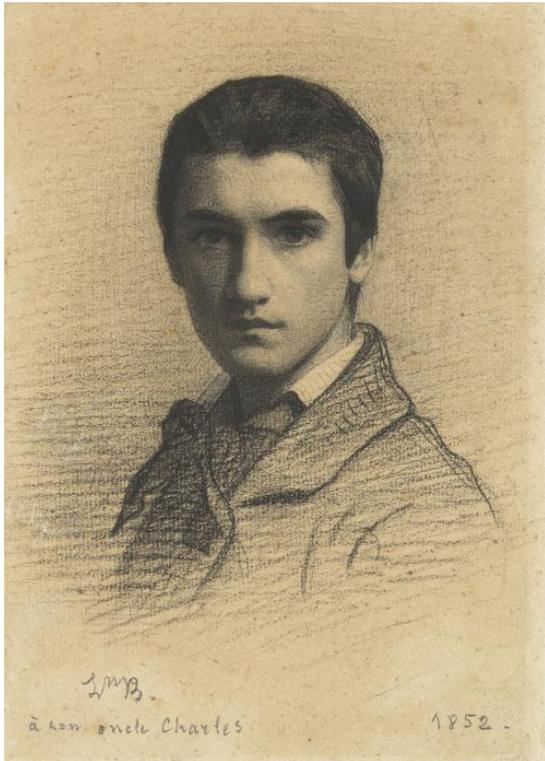


Fig. 1, Léon Bonnat, *Self-portrait at the age of nineteen*, 1852, charcoal on paper, Musée Bonnat-Helleu



Fig. 2, Paul Fraillion, *Figure Study*, 1884, charcoal on paper, 61 x 47 cm, École des Beaux-Arts

¹ See, for example, *Le Septentrional de Paris*, 12 July 1908, p. 1, which praises a black chalk depiction of the artist’s grandmother.