



ALBERT MARQUET

(Bordeaux 1875–1947 Paris)

Arbre en fleurs devant Alger. Circa 1943.

Oil on canvas.

Signed lower right: marquet.

44 x 60 cm.

Provenance: - Auction Drouot, Paris, 28 January 1946, lot 51. - Atelier Matignon, Paris, circa 1985. - Paul Vallotton, Lausanne (with label on the reverse). - Swiss private collection. Literature: Jean-Claude Martinet and Guy Wildenstein: Marquet. L'Afrique du Nord. Catalogue de l'œuvre peint, Paris 2001, p. 310, no. I-411 (with ill.). In 1920, on one of his first trips to North Africa, Albert Marquet met Marcelle Martinet, a French woman who grew up and lived in Algeria. The couple married three years

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later. Afterwards, they would spend their winters in Marcelle's homeland and were at home in both Paris and Algiers. These stays in Algeria were very influential for the artist and strongly informed his painting. During the Second World War, Albert and Marcelle Marquet stayed in Algiers: in 1941 they acquired a piece of land just outside the city called Djenan Sidi Saïd, which Marcelle translated as "Garden of the Happy Lord". A small, important series of Marquet's paintings were produced there. Marcelle describes their retreat, the lush vegetation of the garden and the view of the city as follows:

"Acanthus plants with large glossy leaves covered the slope of the path that we had to follow to reach an old stone staircase that had decayed a little and was dominated by large bright and green agaves with triumphant curves. We constructed a large flower-filled terrace from which we could see the last quarter of the city and the sea, and around us acanthus, white daisy beds, strong geraniums that climbed on the walls, arum hedges, ivy and wisteria that had to be kept in check, pink trees, whose names we do not know, fruit trees of all kinds and, as keepers of this abundance and these promises, some tall and dark cypresses" (from the French, Marcelle Marquet: Marquet. Voyages, Lausanne 1968, p. 60) .

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