

La pulperia

Juan León Pallière

(French painter of Brazilian origin, 1823 – 1887)

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Born in Brazil, he was the son of a French painter of the court of Emperor Peter I. He lives and trains as a painter in Europe, in times of traveling and romantic artists. An educated man, fascinated by the landscape and social types of the Río de la Plata, he consolidated the rural genre focused on everyday customs, when he lived for a period of eleven years in the region (1855-1866). Years during which, pencil in hand, he traveled throughout the area taking notes, making sketches and drawings with which he later constructed his works. He was a direct witness to everything he later painted. On the basis of these experiences, he built an image of the gaucho and the rural life using the narratives: the boy in the pulperia* of fierce men bent over the counter; the romance at the gates of the ranch; the binomial man-horse in the rural tasks.

* a kind of rural store and tavern

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Nascido no Brasil, era filho de um pintor francês da corte do imperador Pedro I. Viveu e formou-se como pintor na Europa, numa época de artistas viajantes e românticos. Homem culto, fascinado pela paisagem e pelos tipos sociais do Rio da Prata, consolidou o género dos costumes rurais quando viveu onze anos na região (1855 - 1866). Durante esses anos, de lápis na mão, percorreu toda a região tomando notas, fazendo esboços e desenhos com os quais construiu mais tarde as suas obras. Foi testemunha direta de tudo o que pintou. Com base nessas experiências, construiu uma imagem do gaúcho e do mundo rural através de narrativas: o menino na pulperia de homens ferozes inclinados sobre o balcão; o romance às portas do rancho; a dupla homem-cavalo em tarefas rurais.