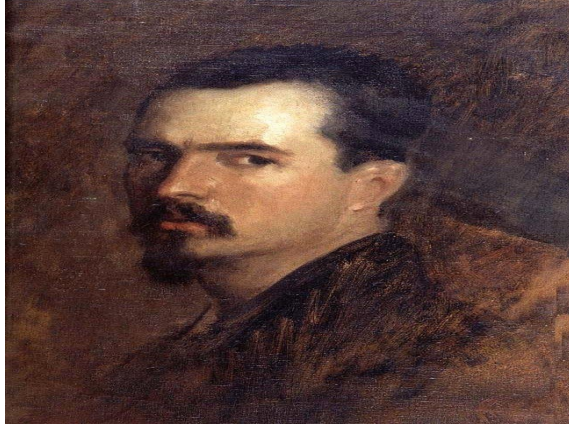


NICOLAE GRIGORESCU (1838-1907)



„The feeling always paints, not the brush. You can paint with a piece of coal, and all the tubs in the world will not give you the blue of a cornflower if you do not have it in your heart.”

Nicolae Grigorescu was one of the founders of modern Romanian painting and he became a symbol for the young generation of artists who, during the first decades of the 20th century, were trying to identify and bring to light the characteristic values of Romanian spirituality. In the first period of his life, this artist used to paint icons for the church, until in 1861, when he left for Paris, where he was admitted to the School of Fine Arts, attending Sébastien Cornu's workshop (1804-1870), where he was a fellow student of Auguste Renoir (1841-1919).

Nicolae Grigorescu performed a spectacular renewal of the plastic language. The overwhelming influence he had on his contemporaries also marked the evolution of the generation that followed him, his creation thus inaugurating a pictorial tradition of ample resonance. Aspects of a completely original style and vision claim recognition in his portraits, in compositions inspired by his experience of participating in the War of Independence (*The Attack on Smârdan, Soldier in the Cavalry Troops on Horseback*), in the landscapes painted in the country or during his journeys abroad (*At Posada, Earthen House in the Forest, Flower-strewn Path, The Fisherwoman in Granville, City Crossroad at Vittré*).

