



**Jean-Léon Gérôme**  
*La Joueuse de Boules*  
Circa 1900

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Greg Cook

*La Joueuse de Boules* (The Ball Player) is a gilt-bronze statuette by Jean-Léon Gérôme (1824-1904). Gérôme exhibited his 'Joueuse de Boules' in the Salon of 1902. He used an invented Neo-Greco ball game to twist and display the nude female form as the woman attempts to drop the balls into the mouths of the masks on the base without moving her feet. The Joueuse was edited in bronze in three sizes by the Siot-Decauville foundry.

Signed: J L GÉRÔME, stamped SIOT-PARIS and numbered 216H.

27.5cm high

A pupil of Jean Delaroche, Gérôme studied the great classical works but was more influenced by nature. A painter and sculptor in various media, his style is described as Academicism. He had commissions from Napoléon III and was appointed a professor at l'Ecole des Beaux-Arts. His influence was extensive and he moved among the fashionable social, musical and literary society of his era.