

LOPPÉ

PEINTRE - ALPINISTE

As a prolific artist and mountaineer, Gabriel Loppé (1825-1913) is now recognized as the first painter to have depicted what the French call *la haute montagne*. He was the founder of the *peintrealpiniste* school of painting and with a brush in one hand and an ice axe in the other, his eighty-eight years were lived with a great independence of spirit which rewarded him at every turn. Loppé was in the prime of his life when mountaineering became an established activity in the 1860s and painting outdoors - *en plein air* - was becoming popular. The manifest advances in industry and engineering also enabled Loppé to divide his time between Chamonix, Paris and London. The man was in every respect a product of his age with a very real affinity for people and urban life. Against a backdrop of shifting political and cultural ideals, he espoused progress and the concept of *modernité* expressed by Baudelaire in his 1864 essay *The Painter of Modern Life*. William Mitchell's 200-page book is the first in English dedicated to the life and work of Gabriel Loppé, with over 100 colour illustrations, and many hitherto unpublished works.

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