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ERNEST SOLER DE LAS CASAS  
1864 - 1935

*PORTRAIT OF COMPOSER GASPAR CASSADÓ*  
1914

Charcoal on paper  
57 x 45 cm

PROVENANCE  
Balclis, Barcelona, Auction MAR17, 14 March 2017, lot 1638;  
Private collection, United Kingdom.

Ernest Soler de las Casas (Barcelona, 1864 - 1935) was a painter, sculptor and writer.

He came from a wealthy noble family: his father was the playwright Frederic Soler i Hubert (Pitarra) and his mother was Albina de Las Cases Bergnes, a family of French origin linked to Louis VI, and niece of the publisher Antoni Bergnes de Las Casas. His grandfather, Bernat-Agustí de Las Cases, owned Tivoli Gardens, on Paseo de Gracia

Although most of his production focuses on landscapes, marines and genre paintings, the present, intimate portrait shows Soler's talent as portraitist.

He also had a relevant career as a writer, publishing a number of novels. Some of his paintings and drawings are today at Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, Barcelona (fig.1).

The sitter, Gaspar Cassadó i Moreu (5 October 1897 – 24 December 1966), was an important Catalan cellist and composer, as well as a good friend of the artist (fig.2).





Fig.1 Ernest Soler de las Casas, *Plaster moulds*, 1886  
Oil on canvas, 132 x 86.5 cm, Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, Barcelona



Fig.2 Unknown photographer, portrait of Gaspar Cassadó