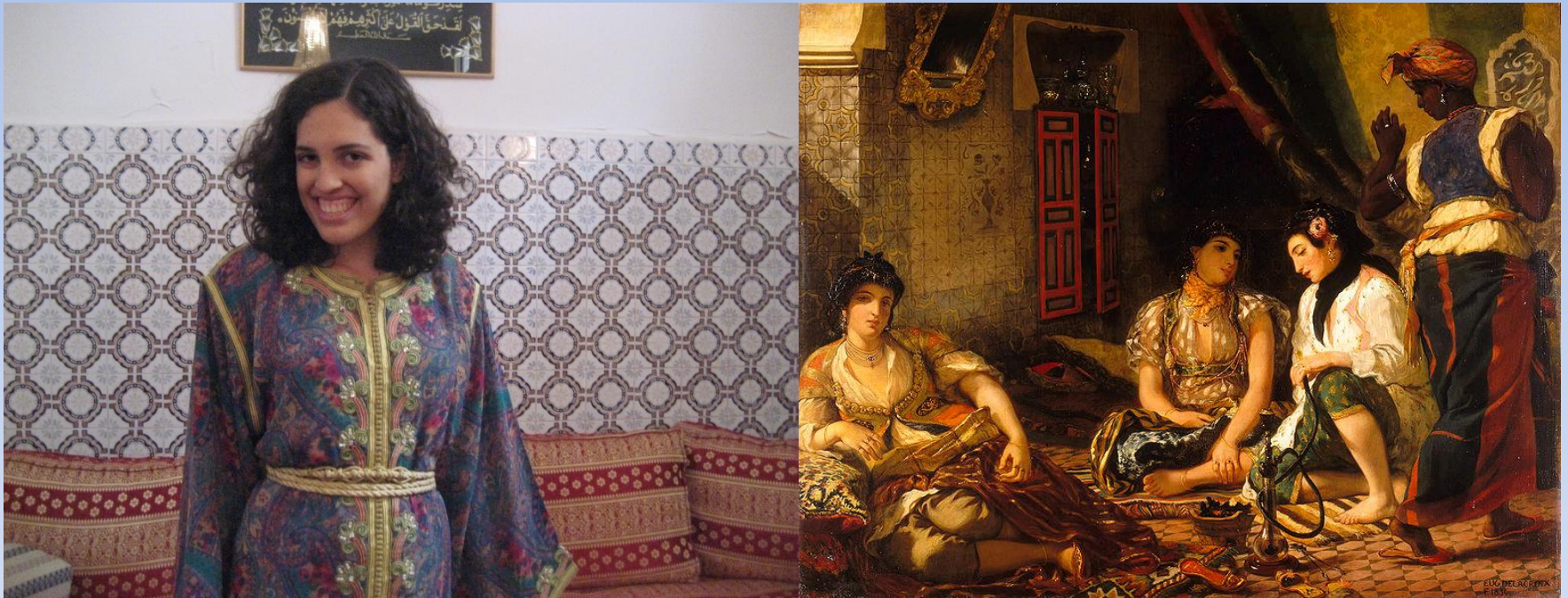


# *Delacroix's Legacy*

## the Representation of Arab Culture in Morocco and France



Eugene Delacroix, *Women of Algiers in their Apartment* (1834). Musée du Louvre.

Isabella Archer, *International Studies, Arabic*

Faculty Advisor: Ellen Welch, *French*

# Background and Goals

- The idea for this project is derived from my previous study and interest in French, Arabic, Orientalism (impressions of Eastern cultures by Western writers and artists), and Franco-Arab relations
- My goals:
  - Comparing artistic representations of Arab culture in Morocco and France.
  - Gauging the impact of Orientalism on contemporary and traditional art
    - Analyzing the legacy of Eugene Delacroix, a 19<sup>th</sup> century French painter whose paintings of ‘traditional’ Morocco and Algeria greatly influenced Western audiences’ perceptions of the Arab world.
- While in Morocco, I also studied the Moroccan dialect of Arabic and lived in a home stay as a means of immersing myself in Moroccan culture.



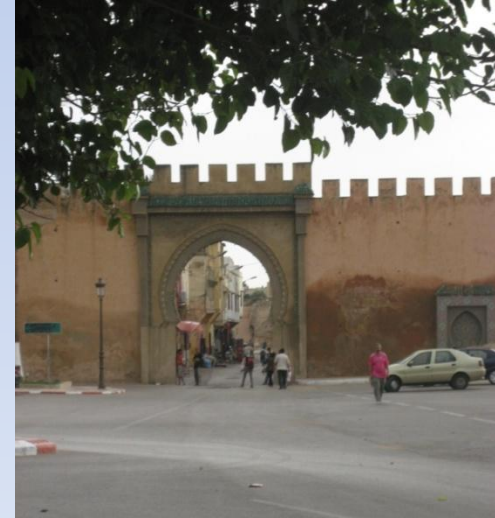
Tourist getting up close and personal with Ingres' the *Grand Odalisque* (1814) in the Louvre.



Untitled work by Moroccan painter Mohammed Chaara, 2007.

# Results

- Visited different cities in Morocco, retracing parts of Delacroix's 1832 North African journey.
- Conducted interviews with artists and curators at museums, galleries, and cultural centers, in addition to archival research in Morocco and France.
- **Results:**
  - I found that many people and cultural institutions in Morocco have a positive impression of Delacroix and feel the painter's art made a lasting contribution to Morocco and introduced Western audiences to Arab culture.
  - Yet this legacy is complicated by the fact that some images became stereotypes about Arab culture.
  - A growing number of artists, both Arab and foreign, are challenging Orientalist stereotypes by creating their own modern pieces that question the authenticity of Orientalist art.
  - However, traditional art is generally more popular and makes up the majority of Arab art in France and Morocco.



Delacroix's painting *The Sultan of Morocco and His Entourage* (1845), and a gate in Meknes today.