

Leonardo Coccorante (Italian, 1680–1750)

*Harbor with Roman Ruins*, c. 1740–50

Oil on canvas

Gift of Mrs. Thomas Balding, 1990 (6015.1)

The subjects of Leonardo Coccorante's landscape paintings range from dramatic, imaginary scenes to topographically correct views of his homeland, Naples, Italy. Invented scenes, like *Harbor with Roman Ruins*, encouraged artists to stretch their imagination and offered them an opportunity to demonstrate the strength of their creative ability. In this work, whose large scale suggests that it served as a stage set design, Coccorante highlights the magnificence of antiquity with ruins that tower over diminutive figures in the foreground.

# Leonardo Coccorante

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*Harbor with Roman Ruins* by Leonardo Coccorante, c. 1740-50, [Honolulu Museum of Art](#)

**Leonardo Coccorante** (1680–1750) was an Italian painter who was born in Naples, Italy. He studied with Jan Frans van Bloemen (1662–1749), Angelo Maria Costa (1670–1721), and finally with Gabriele Ricciardelli (active

between 1741 and 1777). From 1737 to 1739, he was employed decorating the royal palace of Naples. Coccorante died in Naples in 1750.

He is best known for his large highly detailed landscapes with imaginary classical architectural ruins. He often included small figures in the foreground to emphasize the expansiveness of the ruins. Coccorante is classified as a veduta (or vista) painter. The Honolulu Museum of Art, the Louvre, the Lowe Art Museum (Coral Gables, Florida.), Musée départemental de l'Oise (Beauvais, France), Museum of Grenoble, France), Museo Regionale Agostino Pepoli (Trapani, Italy), and Pinacoteca del Castello Sforzesco (Milan, Italy) are among the public collections holding paintings by Leonardo Coccorante.