



Color Cover Inspiration: Jacques Amans: Creole in a Red Headdress, circa 1840

Jacques Guillaume Lucien Amans (1801–1888) was a celebrated French neoclassical painter who established himself as the premier portrait artist for New Orleans high society between the 1830s and 1850s. Departing from his typical formal commissions for the wealthy planter elite, he drew inspiration from the unique cultural and racial landscape of antebellum Louisiana to paint **Creole in a Red Headdress** around 1840. The work's primary visual focus centers on the **tignon**, a traditional West African–derived headscarf that Creole women of color repurposed into a powerful expression of identity and style despite oppressive sumptuary laws. Intrigued by the alluring atmosphere of New Orleans, Amans merged his refined European colorism with local Creole fashion to craft one of the most mysterious and enduring portraits in American art history.