




William-Adolphe Bouguereau

French, 1825-1905



William-Adolphe Bouguereau (November 30, 1825 - August 19, 1905) was a French academic painter and traditionalist. In his realistic genre paintings he used mythological themes, making modern interpretations of classical subjects, with an emphasis on the female human body. During his life he enjoyed significant popularity in France and the United States, was given numerous official honors, and received top prices for his work. As the quintessential salon painter of his generation, he was reviled by the Impressionist avant-garde. By the early twentieth century, Bouguereau and his art fell out of favor with the public, due in part to changing tastes. In the 1980s, a revival of interest in figure painting led to a rediscovery of Bouguereau and his work. Throughout the course of his life, Bouguereau executed 822 known finished paintings, although the whereabouts of many are still unknown.

William-Adolphe Bouguereau was born in La Rochelle, France, on November 30, 1825, into a family of wine and olive oil merchants. He seemed destined to join the family business but for the intervention of his uncle Eugène, a Roman Catholic priest, who taught him classical and Biblical subjects, and arranged for Bouguereau to go to high school. He showed artistic talent early on. His father was convinced by a client to send him to the École des Beaux-Arts in Bordeaux, where he won first prize in figure painting for a depiction of Saint Roch. To earn extra money, he designed labels for jams and preserves.

	<p>Fraternal Love 1851, oil on canvas, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Oil Painting ID: 21083</p>
	<p>The Dance 1856, oil on canvas, Musee d'Orsay, Paris Oil Painting ID: 21084</p>
	<p>Spring 1858, oil on canvas, private collection Oil Painting ID: 21085</p>



[All Saints' Day \(Le jour des morts\)](#)

1859, oil on canvas, Musee des Beaux-Arts, Bordeaux
Oil Painting ID: 21086



[Rest at Harvest](#)

1865, oil on canvas, Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa
Oil Painting ID: 21087



[The Thanks Offering](#)

1867, oil on canvas, Philadelphia Museum of Art
Oil Painting ID: 21088



[Art and Literature](#)

1867, oil on canvas, Arnot Art Museum, Elmira, NY
Oil Painting ID: 21089



[The Shell](#)

1871, oil on canvas
Oil Painting ID: 21090



[Nymphs and Satyr](#)

1873, oil on canvas, Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown
Oil Painting ID: 21091



[Cupidon](#)

1875, Bridgeman Art Library, London
Oil Painting ID: 21092



[The Secret](#)

1876, oil on canvas, New York Historical Society
Oil Painting ID: 21093



[Return from the Harvest](#)

1878, oil on canvas, Museum of Art & Gardens, Jacksonville
Oil Painting ID: 21094



[A Soul Brought to Heaven](#)

1878, oil on canvas, Musee du Perigord
Oil Painting ID: 21095



[Charity](#)

1878, oil on canvas, Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton
Oil Painting ID: 21096



[Rest](#)

1879, Oil on canvas 64 1/2 x 42 1/8 inches (164x107cm), Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio, USA
Oil Painting ID: 21097



[The Birth of Venus](#)

1879, oil on canvas, Musee d'Orsay at Paris
Oil Painting ID: 21098



[Self-Portrait](#)

1879, oil on canvas, The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
Oil Painting ID: 21099



[Temptation](#)

1880, oil on canvas, The Minneapolis Institute of Arts
Oil Painting ID: 21100



[Young Girl Defending Herself against Eros](#)

1880, oil on canvas, University of North Carolina, Wilmington
Oil Painting ID: 21101



[Song of the Angels](#)

1881, oil on canvas, Museum at Forest-Lawn Memorial-Park, Glendale
Oil Painting ID: 21102



[Child at Bath](#)

1886, oil on canvas, Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington.
Oil Painting ID: 21103



[The Annunciation](#)

1888, oil on canvas
Oil Painting ID: 21104



[The Bohemian](#)

1890, oil on canvas, The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, USA
Oil Painting ID: 21105



[Innocence](#)

1890, oil on canvas
Oil Painting ID: 21106







[Work Interrupted](#)

1891, oil on canvas, Mead Art Museum, Amherst College
Oil Painting ID: 21107



[The Abduction of Psyche](#)

1895, oil on canvas, Private Collection
Oil Painting ID: 21108

	<p>Girl 1895, oil on canvas, The Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh Oil Painting ID: 21109</p>
	<p>Two Girls (Childhood Idyll) 1900, oil on Canvas, Denver Art Museum Oil Painting ID: 21110</p>
	<p>The Virgin with Angels 1900, oil on canvas, Musee du Petit Palais at Paris Oil Painting ID: 21111</p>
	<p>Portrait of the Artist 46.5x38.5cm, Montreal Museum of Arts, Montreal, Canada Oil Painting ID: 21112</p>

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