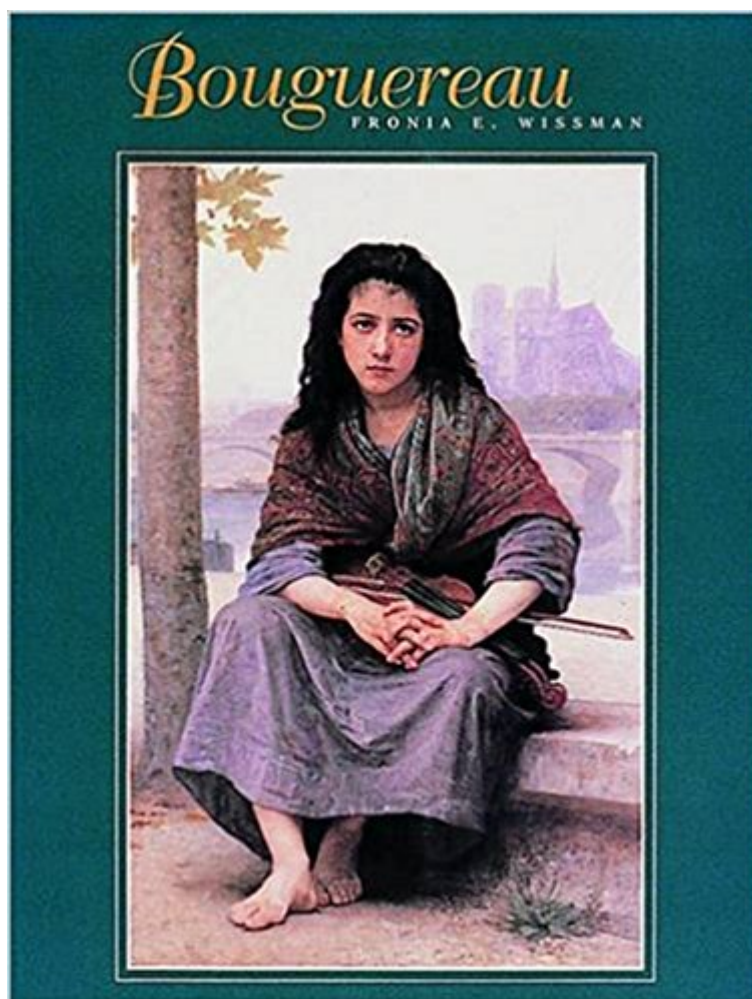


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Bouguereau



Synopsis

Adolphe-William Bouguereau (French, 1825-1905) created timeless works of sensual, emotional, and intellectual appeal. Educated at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, he became a highly sought-after portraitist whose works were exhibited at the Salon and won medals in various international exhibitions. In Bouguereau, author Fronia E. Wissman offers astute and illuminating insights into the art, career, and family life of this great artist -- whose beautiful paintings of a better, purer time and place continue to find favor with contemporary viewers.

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Customer Reviews

Fronia Wissman's Bouguereau offers astute and illuminating insights into his art, career, and family life of the French artist Adolphe-William Bouguereau (1825-1905) whose evocative visions of a better, purer time and place earned him a passionate following during his lifetime down through the present. 60 full color reproductions and 15 black & white illustrations perfectly exemplify Bouguereau's prodigious talent in creating works of sensual, emotional, and intellectual appeal. By the time of his death in 1905, Bouguereau was scorned by progressive painters and critics who saw in his works all that was wrong with the official French world of art, but he was also a favorite of collectors, who found in his paintings of bathers, nymphs, and shepherdesses a realm of eternal beauty far from contemporary life. Bouguereau displayed his talent for drawing at a very early age, became educated at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, was a highly successful portraitist, was exhibited at the Salon to an enthusiastic public, and had his work recognized and awarded at various European expositions during his life. Bouguereau is a beautiful tribute to an artist and would

grace any art school, community, or personal art library! -- Midwest Book Review

A good read for information on an artist maybe not so well known he is not fashionable but still a good book to have on an artist who should not be classed as a chocolate box painter.

William Adolphe Bouguereau was what the French called :Pompier genre. That which has to do with Pomp and circumstance , I suppose. Fanatics of Bouguereau will want to find the catalogue raisonne of the exhibit in Canada, now over two decades ago. Understanding Bouguerau 's Art , is seminal to understanding Academic study from 1793 to 1867, roughly , at the famous Beaux Arts School in Paris. Bouguereau was one of the people who painted indefatigably nature and human beings , in a mythology setting. Napoleon Bonaparte conquered the Mediterranean Basin , in the 1790's and therefore opened the door wide to European Archeologists in mediterranean Europe , the Middle east , and North Africa .When he occupied Egypt , the Rosetta stone was found , unlocking the key to the deciphering of Hieroglyphs. All these discoveries of the Antique world enflamed the imagination of European painters , and gave birth to over 100 years of academic style oil masterpieces .Bouguereau was the Standard bearer of the Academic genre , along with his friends , Gervex, and Jean Leon Gerome. Armed with years of Black and White drawing and painting , and a year of color studies, one could , at the outset , start depicting reality in their own Style, recreating a universe of their own , almost seemingly effortlessly, at will. The last touch on their work, for average painters, was the start for Bouguereau. He did not use a blending brush , or fan, and one can see , by examining an original , that a 3/16 " wide brush is used to create a mosaic of unending planes , and tonal values , almost seamlessly. While nothing can replace contemplating originals of these sumptuous and large sized paintings, now slightly cracked by the test of time , it is with great gratitude and emotion that we thank the author for sharing with the world a gaze at these masterpieces.

My 16 year old daughter loves all things Bouguereau, but as others have mentioned, there are not many collections of his works in print. My daughter was thrilled with this book, the artwork in it and the background information. She did wish some of the descriptions and background information were more thorough, but was still happy with all that she gained from reading and looking through this book.

I really liked this book. There is some history of his life and some of the techniques he used in his

mastery of Portraits. I loved that they also had partially finished paintings included as it helped to understand his methodology of painting.

Bouguereau has to be one of the greatest painters in history, his flawless technique is something beyond words. In the museum where I work there are two pieces by him, Marguerite and Far from Home. Marguerite appears in this book. You can spend hours looking at his painting and wondering how it is that somebody was able to paint in such a beautiful and almost beyond reality way. It is simply incredible. Get this book and fall in love with him.

Very informative and beautifully assembled. The information on Bouguereau's life gives a nice background and the many paintings presented are beautifully done. I only wish more of his paintings were included.

Bouguereau was extremely talented but he was in the wrong era, just as Impressionism was getting a foothold. His works seem more like photographs than paintings. This is a beautiful book but I would have liked to have seen more paintings and less prose.

This book was not only fabulous with its many paintings by Bouguereau but with the explanation behind them by Fronia E Wissman. Many of the 67 plates were almost A4 size and the detail executed therein was exquisite! My favourite painting - 'L'Innocence' - was not amongst them, alas!! However, I learnt much about Bouguereau's life as well as the background of his paintings. Relatively inexpensive, yet a great book to display on my sitting room book stand!

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