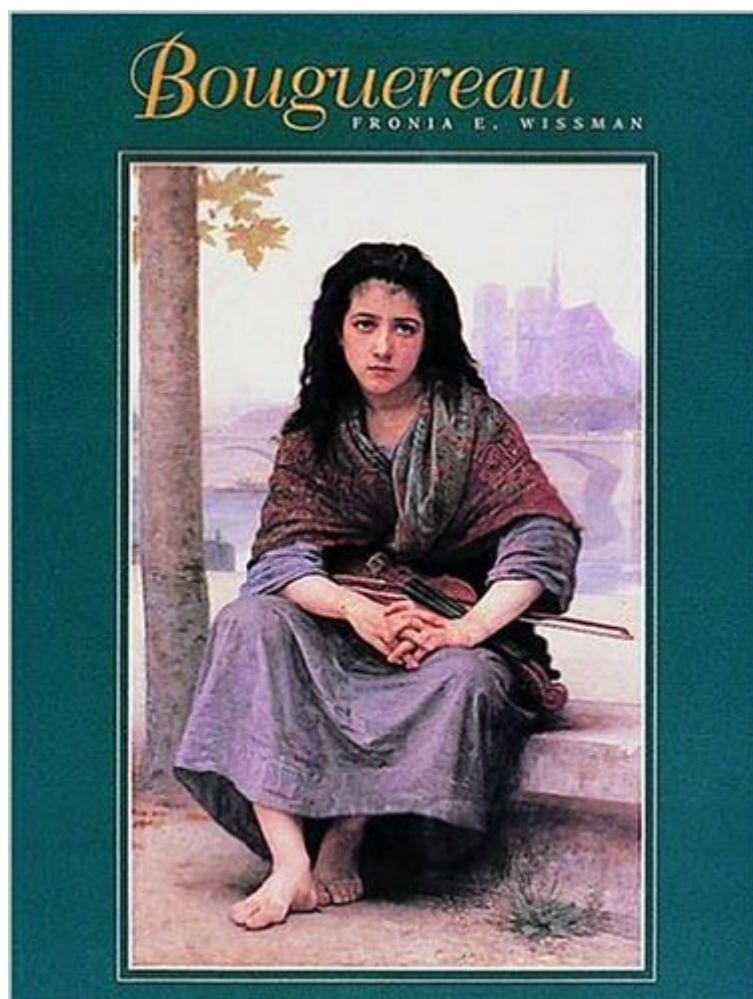


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Bouguereau



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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Had Bouguereau painted in an era that didn't coincide with the impressionists, knowledge of his work would no doubt be more widespread, and we'd be blessed with more retrospective art books. After searching for years, the Wissman book was a dream come true: something other than a calendar that contained more than five Bouguereau works. The presentation here was well thought out, with the paintings grouped by subject/theme, and the text therein describing chronologically the development of Bouguereau's work. I appreciated the link between the artist's life and the influence of other artists and the art world at the time. The artwork itself is wonderfully portrayed, colorful and true, in almost all cases, the exceptions being an occasional inconsistency in contrast or sharpness (probably due to less-than-ideal photographic conditions were the paintings are found). I also applaud the inclusion of dimensions and location/credit notes which accompany almost all of the paintings. The only way to improve upon this book would be to include even more of the artist's work, and make it larger.

You wouldn't be ordering this book if you didn't already love Bouguereau, so rest assured that the reproductions are top notch, especially for a fairly inexpensive paperback.

I have been a fan of Bouguereau since seeing his gypsy shepherd girl in person at the San Diego Museum of Art many years ago. I searched in vain for this kind of book display of his art in museum gift shops and libraries. This author has not only picked some of Bouguereau's best works, but he also gives background information that allows the reader/viewer to understand the forces that created this French culture and art.

Being a fine artist for over 42 years and studying in this country and in Europe I have developed a style emulating this great artist. In studying many of his original pieces in galleries all over the world and obtaining every book on him I feel somewhat of an expert on Bouguereau. I would absolutely recommend this book to anyone interested in Bouguereau or his style. If anyone is interested in further comments or where his originals can be seen please feel free to contact me at BARONEVL@aol.com

Bouguereau by museum art exhibition curator and art history expert Fronia E. Wissman is a superbly presented collection of artwork underscored with thoughtful commentary showcasing one of the most simultaneously beloved and hated nineteenth-century French artists, Adolphe-William Bouguereau. His realistic, classic paintings of nude bathers, nymphs, young women and figures of mythology have a captivating, attention-calling quality that turns the head and the eye. His images are here displayed in full color photographs and the informative text recounts his life and enhances our understanding of the background to his masterpieces in this engaging and very highly recommended addition to personal and academic Art History Reference collections.

Wissman did a great job providing a fair and balanced view of French painter Bouguereau's career. And it's a good thing too! Everything else related to the artist is either out of print or a flimsy postcard book. How could this be? Well, the unfortunate stereotype of Bougeureau buffs is that they "don't know much about art but know what they like." It may be that many editors assume that if you like Bougeureau's paintings, you aren't the type to read a serious art book. I like to believe this is wrong. I enjoy Bouguereau's art very much and am glad that someone published a reasonable paperback history and criticism of the artist. I hope that one day, others write similarly good books

about other "forgotten" 19th century artists.

After reviewing and analyzing such a wonderful work, I was very impressed with the author's research and development for the book. The book is well written and organized, and gives a wonderful timeline of what Bouguereau was like as a man and an artist. This book also has many of his pieces, including where the originals can be found. Many of the pictures are color, but some are black/white, which was a downfall. Even so, this is a must for all of Bouguereau's fans and a great coffee table book!

I bought this book in the Louvre Museum in Paris, where we were able to see some of the originals. They're compelling and just draw you in! This book allowed me to bring the paintings home, and study them. It's easy to read, and goes into detail explaining not only about Bouguereau, but also explains a lot of the detail and symbolism that he used in his paintings. So now I can enjoy them on a whole new level. I'm not a big art buff, but I know I'm drawn to his paintings, this was just a perfect book to cut my teeth on, and help to develop a better understanding of some very famous paintings. Buy the book. You won't regret it!

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