

Sotheby's to Present
19TH CENTURY EUROPEAN ART
On 1 February in New York



William Bouguereau
Le livre de prix
Estimate \$1/1.5 million



Elizabeth Jane Gardner Bouguereau
Le captive
Estimate \$250/350,000

Featuring:

Highlights from *The Female Triumphant*,
Including Masterworks by Rosa Bonheur, Virginie Demont-Breton and
Elizabeth Gardner Bouguereau

**

10 Works by William Bouguereau
Led by **Le livre de prix**,
Unseen on the Market for Over a Century

**

Exceptional Victorian & British Paintings,
Including Works by
Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema and John Atkinson Grimshaw

Sotheby's Masters Week Exhibitions Open to the Public on 25 January

NEW YORK, 18 January 2019 – Sotheby's auction of 19th Century European Art on 1 February 2019 will present over 200 works that reflect the rich diversity of artistic production of the period. Paintings by Rosa Bonheur, Virginie Demont-Breton and Elizabeth Gardner Bouguereau are among the highlights from *The Female Triumphant* – a group of masterworks by trailblazing female artists from the 16th through the 19th centuries, which will be offered across our Masters Week sales this January. The sale is further distinguished by William Bouguereau and Jules Breton's portraits of rural life, Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema and John William Godward's epic visions on the Ancient world, and Pascal Adolphe Jean Dagnan-Bouveret and Jean Béraud's views of life in the Belle Époque – many of which are from private collections and resurfacing at auction for the first time in over a century.

Open to the public on 25 January, the sale will be presented alongside Sotheby's Masters Week exhibitions.

THE FEMALE TRIUMPHANT: WOMEN ARTISTS OF THE PREMODERN ERA

In the late nineteenth century, Paris invited innovation, experimentation and boundary breaking, yet the advancements made by women artists in the public sphere were met with challenges. Thanks to their irrefutable talent and perseverance, women certainly found success, as illustrated in the vital careers of the artists featured in *The Female Triumphant*, including Rosa Bonheur, Virginie Demont-Breton and Elizabeth Gardner Bouguereau.



A precocious talent from a young age, Rosa Bonheur first exhibited at the Salon in 1841. Four years later, she presented **Le labourage**, and earned a third place medal for its characteristically meticulous craftsmanship and photographic realism (above, estimate \$80/120,000). Her achievement not only cemented her as a success, but led to further commissions and ultimately the

French *Légion d'honneur*, which was presented to her in 1865 and marked the first time a woman received the honor.

Elizabeth Gardner Bouguereau was one of the most accomplished *Salon* artists among expatriates in mid-nineteenth century Paris and in 1887 had the distinction of becoming the only American woman to receive a Salon medal. In addition, Gardner's personal and professional attachment to her husband William Bouguereau was instrumental in establishing her style and in marketing her work such as **La captive**, exhibited at the *Salon* of 1883 (front page, estimate \$250/350,000), and **Les trois amis** (estimate \$250/350,000).



Virginie Demont-Breton enjoyed an artistic upbringing and cultivated her talent from an early age, having trained under her father, Jules Breton, whose work is also represented in the auction. Winning Demont-Breton's first medal at the *Salon* of 1881, **Femme de pêcheur venant de baigner ses enfants** is the artist's earliest masterpiece, propelling her distinguished career as a painter and as a pioneering advocate for women artists (estimate \$100/150,000). In 1894, Demont-Breton was the second woman in France to be awarded the *Légion d'honneur* and from 1895-1901 served as the president of the Union des Femmes Peintres et Sculpteurs where she was instrumental in the fight to grant women entrance to Paris' *École des Beaux Arts*.

WILLIAM BOUGUEREAU: MASTER OF FRENCH ACADEMIC PAINTING



A selection of 10 works by William Bouguereau will be highlighted by **Le livre de prix**, one of the finest canvases of the artist's mature period to come to auction (front page, estimate \$1/1.5 million). The young girl in the present work is Yvonne, one of the artist's favorite models, who appears in many of Bouguereau's compositions from 1893. Formerly in the collection of Henry May, Vice President and General Manager of the Pierce-Arrow Motor Company, the work has remained in the same family's collection for over 100 years. Known only through a black and

white photograph from Bouguereau's studio, its presentation today marks an important and long-awaited rediscovery.

Also featured in the January sale is **Bacchante** from 1894 (above, estimate \$600/800,000). The painting was likely inspired by the mythological subjects favored by many nineteenth century artists, including Bouguereau's English contemporaries Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema and John William Godward. The woman in the present work, a Dionysian devotee, belongs to a series the artist referred to as "fantasy paintings," a theme that the artist established through earlier works that illustrate Classical narratives.

JULES BRETON: THE PAINTER OF PEASANTS

The January sale features four exceptional works spanning three decades of Jules Breton's career. **La Glaneuse** is a recent discovery, compelling a renewed appreciation of the pivotal production of the self-proclaimed "painter of peasants'" early oeuvre (estimate \$150/200,000). Known for his Realist, rural landscapes populated by shepherdesses, harvesters and gleaners, the atmospheric tour-de-force of **Le Matin** (above, estimate \$400/600,00) received widespread admiration upon its exhibition at the *Salon* of 1883, while **La Falaise's** enigmatic subject of a peasant girl looking out to sea has captivated audiences since the late 1870s (estimate \$200/300,000).



VICTORIAN & BRITISH PAINTINGS



Featured on the sale's catalogue cover is Sir Frank Dicksee's **Yseult**, which the artist presented at the Royal Academy in 1901 (below, estimate \$1/2 million). Inspired by Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*, the painting depicts Princess Yseult of the White Hands, the wife of Sir Tristram, who gazes out of her window looking for a ship on the horizon.

Female beauty would always be an important element of Dicksee's paintings and his gorgeously decorative single-figure subjects like the present work are among his most celebrated pictures.

Completed in 1922, **A Dilettante** by John William Godward marks an important rediscovery for the artist, reappearing for the first time in nearly a century (estimate \$400/600,000). Regarded as one of his last great paintings, *A Dilettante* demonstrates Godward's painstaking attention to detail and depicts the artist's vision of idyllic Antiquity.

Painted in 1894, Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema's jewel-like **Past and Present Generations** embodies the artist's connection to the antique subjects which he cherished (right, estimate \$300/500,000). In addition to painting subtle narratives with emotional depth, Alma-Tadema was known for his diligent sourcing of historical references, such as the marble Roman funerary busts of the balustrade, which are based on precise drawings Alma-Tadema made in the Uffizi in Florence and the Capitoline Museum in Rome.



The auction also offers an extraordinary oil painting by the great English Victorian-era artist John Atkinson Grimshaw. A prime example of the artist's trademark street scenes throughout the 1880s, **A November Morning**, exhibits the hallmarks of Grimshaw's mature style, and his atmospheric depiction of the evening and the first light of the morning (estimate \$200/300,000).

Among the selection of outstanding maritime paintings to be offered is **Fresh Winds, High Seas** by British artist Montague Dawson (estimate \$200/300,000). Sailing on the white-capped ocean, with its sails fully unfurled, the sea spray and sunlight tangible, the monumental canvas of the racing clipper is being offered by The Saint Louis Art Museum To Benefit Future Acquisitions.

FOR MORE NEWS FROM SOTHEBY'S

News & Video: <http://www.sothebys.com/en/news-video.html>

Twitter: www.twitter.com/sothebys

Instagram: www.instagram.com/sothebys

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sothebys

Snapchat ID: sothebys

YouTube: www.youtube.com/SothebysTV

Weibo: www.weibo.com/sothebyshongkong

WeChat ID: sothebyshongkong

Sotheby's has been uniting collectors with world-class works of art since 1744. Sotheby's became the first international auction house when it expanded from London to New York (1955), the first to conduct sales in Hong Kong (1973), India (1992) and France (2001), and the first international fine art auction house in China (2012). Today, Sotheby's presents auctions in 10 different salesrooms, including New York, London, Hong Kong and Paris, and Sotheby's BidNow program allows visitors to view all auctions live online and place bids from anywhere in the world. Sotheby's offers collectors the resources of Sotheby's Financial Services, the world's only full-service art financing company, as well as the collection advisory services of its subsidiary, Art Agency, Partners. Sotheby's presents private sale opportunities in more than 70 categories, including S|2, the gallery arm of Sotheby's Global Fine Art Division, and two retail businesses, Sotheby's Diamonds and Sotheby's Wine. Sotheby's has a global network of 80 offices in 40 countries and is the oldest company listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium and are net of any fees paid to the purchaser where the purchaser provided an irrevocable bid.

Images are available upon request

Browse sale catalogues, view original content, stream live auctions and more at www.sothebys.com, and through Sotheby's apps for iPhone, iPad, Android, Apple TV and Amazon Fire

#

#

#