

The Parkville Frame Gallery

Newsletter

2022 Newsletter #22-5 (Sept/Oct)

Subject: Female Masters

If someone were to ask you to name just three artists, you might respond by naming some combination of the following: Dutch Golden Age painters Rembrandt van Rijn (*Night Watch*), and Johannes Vermeer (*The Milkmaid*); or Netherlandish painter Jan van Eyck (*The Ghent Altarpiece*). Or perhaps you would select from among Italian artists Leonardo di ser Piero da Vinci (*Salvator Mundi*); Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni (*The Pieta*); Luca Giordano (*The Annunciation*), and Baroque Sculptor Gian Lorenzo Bernini (*Apollo and Daphne*). You might include in your list Spanish artist Diego Rodríguez de Silva y Velázquez (*Las Meninas*); Pablo Ruiz Picasso (*Guernica*); and Bartolomé Esteban Murillo (*Adoration of the Shepherds*). And, of course, what list would be considered complete without French artists Oscar-Claude Monet (*The Magpie*); Jacques-Louis David (*Oath of the Horatii*); impressionist painter Edgar Degas (*The Dance Class*); and academic painter William-Adolphe Bouguereau.

American artists that might make your list could be Missouri-born George Caleb Bingham (*Fur Traders Descending the Missouri*); the famous portrait painter John Singer Sargent (*Portrait of Madame X*); or Winslow Homer, well known for his paintings in both watercolor (the fishing village of Cullercoats, England), and oil (*The Life Line*).

With your list now complete, what common denominator do you see among all of the artists listed above? They are all men. Now, granted, you might have included women on your list, but my bet is that you did not. Let's take a look at some female masters.

On the internet explore paintings by American painter Julie Hart Beers. Compare her paintings with those of Thomas Cole. Also, compare the paintings of Flemish artist Clara Peeters (1594-1657) with those of Dutch still-life artist Pieter Clacsz (1597-1661).



Clara Peeters



Pieter Clacsz



Elisabeth-Louise Vigée Le Brun (French, 1755 - 1842)

- Le Brun became a very popular portrait painter for French aristocracy.
- Marie-Antoinette was her most important patron and sitter.
- Le Brun made as many as 30 paintings of the queen and her family.
- In 1783 she was accepted to the Academie royale de peinture et de sculpture.
- She was one of only fifteen women to be admitted.

Peace Bringing Back Abundance

- This painting with assistance from the queen enabled Le Brun to enter The French Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture.
- History paintings were rarely painted by women in France at the time Le Brun was active.
- Her membership in the Académie was dissolved after the French Revolution.



Julie Hart Beers Kempson (American, 1835-1913)

- Julie Hart Beers Kempson was a painter of the Hudson River School.
- She was one of very few professional female landscape painters in nineteenth-century America, and the only one to achieve any renown.
- Julie Hart Beers Kempson demonstrated that female landscape painters were the equal of men, even given the rigors of painting outdoors.
- While largely unappreciated in her own time, her talent and dedication not only produced outstanding works of art, but also broke important ground for the female landscape painters who would follow her.

Meet with our *Art Advisor* to learn more about other **Female Masters**.