

The Bouguereau Series

The Parkville Frame Gallery is pleased to offer: **The Bouguereau Series**. This series is a collection of images (paintings mostly) created by the well-known and well-respected French artist **William-Adolphe Bouguereau**. These images can be purchased either already framed, or we can order these and other images, in a variety of sizes, and frame them to your specifications.



The Young Shepherdess (1885)
William-Adolphe Bouguereau
San Diego Museum of Art

Date painted: 1885

How originally painted: Oil on canvas

Size: 62 x 28.5 inches

Where on display: San Diego Museum of Art

The Artist: **William-Adolphe Bouguereau** (1825 – 1905) was a French academic painter. During his lifetime he enjoyed significant popularity in France and in the United States. He was given numerous official honors, and received top prices for his work. Throughout the course of his life, Bouguereau executed 822 known finished paintings, although the whereabouts of many are still unknown.

The Art: ***The Young Shepherdess*** depicts a young woman tending to her flock of sheep as she looks back to the viewer with some curiosity. We see a quaint scene made beautiful with subtle attention to detail and expression that help bring the picture to life. This woman is depicted as unthreatened and unburdened, not even wearing shoes in the pasture. She holds a carrot used to call the sheep to her when it is time to return them to their pens.

Editor's Note: See this site: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7maTyA_RBGo



L'Innocence (Innocence) (1893)
William-Adolphe Bouguereau

Date painted: 1893

How originally painted: Oil on canvas

Size: 39.3 x 20.6 inches

Where on display: Unknown

The Artist: **William-Adolphe Bouguereau** (1825 – 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.

The Art: In ***L'Innocence*** (Innocence, 1893), the Virgin Mary is seen holding her sleeping son Jesus on one hand, and on the other, a small lamb. The painting signifies the future sacrifice of Jesus. It can be viewed as the perfect gift for an expectant mother, something that she can place in the nursery, or as a present to a woman who has already given birth to celebrate her newborn.



Italian woman at the fountain (1869)

William-Adolphe Bouguereau

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

Date painted: 1869

How originally painted: Oil on canvas

Size: 39-3/4 x 31-7/8 inches (unframed), 51 x 43-1/8 inches (framed)

Where on display: Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City

The Art: In *Italian Woman at the Fountain* (1869) we see Bouguereau's technique which appears almost photorealistic, the result of close study of nature and the use of photographs that allowed him to capture the minutest details in his compositions. His typical works were classical, religious, or everyday life scenes such as this, characterized by their realism, restrained palette, and classically posed figures inspired by Italian Renaissance models.



The Elder Sister (1869)
William-Adolphe Bouguereau
The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas

Date painted: 1869

How originally painted: Text

Size: 51.3 × 38.3 inches

Where on display: The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas

The Art: *The Elder Sister* (La soeur aînée in French, 1869) portrays a pre-teen girl sitting on a rock, holding a small infant in her arms. Bouguereau's technical ability to paint in such fine detail makes this painting closely resemble a photograph. Individual blades of grass are seen in the foreground, while the leaves of the trees in the background are also visible, something that will often be blurred in an oil painting.

The brickwork of the farmhouse in the distance to the left of the girl and her brother is clearly evident; even the nails on the girl's fingers seem to have a slight shine in the light. But the one thing that really stands out is the exquisite details on the folds of the top of the girl's shirt. The detail and shadowing in the lines and seams of the clothing is remarkable.

The look on the girl's face is one of elegance and composure. That combined with the boy peacefully sleeping in her arms is what gives this piece, as a whole, a feeling of tranquility. The sleeping boy is thought to be Bouguereau's son Paul, while the girl in the picture is believed to be his daughter Henriette. She has similar features to –among several others– the girl in *Little Thief* (Petite Maraudeuse in French), *The Prayer* (La Priere in French), and the girl on the left in *The Nut Gatherers* (originally named Les Noisettes in French), all also painted by Bouguereau. This leads one to believe that his daughter was of great inspiration to him.