

John Everett Millais

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Early Years

Millais was born on June 8, 1829 in Southampton, United Kingdom (as seen on right). He was the son of John William Millais and Mary Emily Millais, his siblings consisted of Emily Wallack, William Henry Millais, and Ellen Millais.



Early Years (continued)

Millais spent all of his early years of life living in the United Kingdom. A fun fact about his childhood is that he was the youngest student to enter the Royal Academy Schools at age eleven.

Education

Millais attended the
Royal Academy of
Arts. (as seen on
right)



Adult- Early Years

Millais stayed in London for most of his career. I assume he stayed here because he joined with two other artists, William Holman Hunt and Dante Gabriel Rossetti to form the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood



(Pictured is what London in the 1850's supposedly looked like.)

Early Years - Influences/Friends

In 1849 Millais joined a group of artists that also went to The Royal Academy of Arts, these other students were Dante Gabriel Rossetti, William Holman Hunt, James Collinson, William Michael Rossetti, Frederic George Stephens, and Thomas Woolner, the groups name would be Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. John Ruskin became the groups most loyal member.

Personal Life

Millais married Euphemia Chalmers Gray, who was also John Ruskin's wife. She was unhappy in her previous marriage. Their children consist of Everett Millais, born in 1856; George Millais, born in 1857; Effie Millais, born in 1858; Mary Millais, born in 1860; Alice Millais, born in 1862; Geoffroy Millais, born in 1863; John Millais, born in 1865; and Sophie Millais, born in 1868. His youngest son John Guille Millais became a naturalist, wildlife artist, and Millais's biographer.

First Works of Art

One of the first pieces of art he did that brought him attention was his painting called “Christ in the House of His Parents.” When this painting first came out it was very controversial. Charles Dickens said that Millais portrayed Mary as an alcoholic who looks “... so hideous in her ugliness that ...she would stand out from the rest of the company as a monster, in the vilest cabaret in France, or in the lowest gin-shop in England.



Style

Millais was part of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood movement, the whole movement focused on portraying things as natural as they could. He used pre-made oil paints for his work later in life. His art was all realism



Style (continued)

The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood was made to combat the unimaginative and artificial historical painting of the Royal Academy and who purportedly sought to express a new moral seriousness and sincerity in their works. This style was popular through the 1850's and 60's. People that also used this style were Dante Gabriel Rossetti and William Holman Hunt.

Famous Work



This painting is called Ophelia, it is located in the Tate Britain Art Museum.

Famous Work (continued)

This painting is the drowning Ophelia from Shakespeare's play Hamlet. It was made sometime in 1851, and the dimensions are w1118 x h762 mm. It was made of oil on canvas, and it was made during the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood movement

Critique

“Mr Millais’s talent is budding into undoubted genius. We have no hesitation in saying that he had produced the two most imaginative and powerful pictures in the exhibition. Ophelia is startling in its originality. The beholder recoils in amazement at the extraordinary treatment, but a second glance captivates and a few moments’ contemplation fascinates him.” -The Morning Chronicle, 1852

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/millais-ophelia-n01506/story-ophelia>

My Critique

I like this piece because the minor details have large meaning, such as the flowers and their colors all have different meanings.

Other Works



This piece is called “The Martyr of Solway” and it is called this because the woman portrayed in this is Margaret Wilson. She was executed by drowning for refusing to swear an oath declaring James VII as head of the church. I like this piece because the colors scheme and the message behind it is very meaningful.

Importance

Millais is important because he was one of the founders of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, and without him wouldn't have the pieces of art we have today. As far as i can tell no one is influenced by Millais.

Weird Facts

-Millais was also very successful as a book illustrator, notably for the works of Anthony Trollope and the poems of Tennyson. His complex illustrations of the parables of Jesus were published in 1864. His father-in-law commissioned stained-glass windows based on them for Kinnoull parish church, Perth. He also provided illustrations for magazines such as Good Words.

-By the mid-1850s Millais was moving away from the Pre-Raphaelite style to develop a new form of realism in his art. His later works were enormously successful, making Millais one of the wealthiest artists of his day.

-Millais was elected as an associate member of the Royal Academy of Arts in 1853, and was soon elected as a full member of the Academy, in which he was a prominent and active participant. In 1896, Millais was elected President of the Royal Academy. Additionally, between 1881 and 1882, Millais was elected and acted as the president of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists.

-Millais died in 1896 and is buried in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral. The Prince of Wales (later to become King Edward VII) chaired a memorial committee which commissioned a statue of the artist. This was installed at the front of the National Gallery of British Art (now Tate Britain) in the garden on the east side in 1905.

References

Slide 2: <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Millais-1>

Slide 3: <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/sir-john-everett-millais-bt-379>

Slide 4: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Everett_Millais

Slide 5: <https://www.theartstory.org/artist/millais-john-everett/life-and-legacy/>

Slide 6: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Sir-John-Everett-Millais-1st-Baronet>

Slide 7: same as slide 5

Slide 8: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christ_in_the_House_of_His_Parents

Slide 9: same as slide 5

Slide 10: same as slide 3

Slide 11: <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/millais-ophelia-n01506/story-ophelia>

Slide 12: same as slide 11

Slide 13: same as slide 11

Slide 14: same as slide 11

Slide 15: <https://joyofmuseums.com/museums/united-kingdom-museums/liverpool-museums/walker-art-gallery/masterpieces-of-the-walker-art-gallery/the-martyr-of-solway-by-john-everett-millais/>

Slide 16: Same as slide 5

Slide 17: https://kids.kiddle.co/John_Everett_Millais