



*William-Adolphe Bouguereau*

*Gallery: William-Adolphe Bouguereau*



The Shepherdess



Tête d'Etude l'Oiseau



The Hard Lesson



Beggars

*William-Adolphe Bouguereau* (November 30, 1825 – August 19, 1905) was a French [academic painter](#). He was a traditionalist; painting mythological themes. Bouguereau, painting entirely within the traditional Academic style, exhibited at the annual exhibitions of the [Paris Salon](#) for his entire working life. In 1856, he married Marie-Nelly Monchablon and had five children. By the late 1850s, he had made strong connections with art dealers, particularly [Paul Durand-Ruel](#) who helped clients buy paintings from artists who exhibited at the [Salons](#) which drew over 300,000 people. Bouguereau received many commissions to decorate private houses, public buildings, and churches. Bouguereau was married for the second time in 1896, to [Elizabeth Jane Gardner Bouguereau](#), one of his pupils. In his own time, Bouguereau was considered to be one of the greatest painters in the world by the Academic art community. Bouguereau's works were eagerly bought by American millionaires who considered him the most important French artist of that time. But after 1920, due to changing tastes, Bouguereau became less popular.