

Antoine Watteau Drawings

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one of the most brilliant and original artists of the eighteenth century Antoine Watteau 1684-1721 had an impact on the development of Rococo art in France and throughout Europe lasting well beyond his lifetime living only thirty six years and plagued by frequent illness Watteau nonetheless rose from an obscure provincial background to achieve fame in the French capital during the regency of the Duc d'Orléans His paintings feature figures in aristocratic and theatrical dress in lush imaginary landscapes their amorous and wistful encounters create a mood but do not employ narrative in the traditional sense During Watteau's lifetime a new term *fête galante* was coined to describe them Watteau was also a gifted draftsman whose sparkling chalk sheets capture subtle nuances of deportment and expression Watteau focused not just on those in satin but also on the poor who came to Paris as he had for a better life Some of his sketches juxtapose porcelain beauties with exquisite studies of their young black servants Watteau clearly had a genuine love of music His drawings of those playing and listening offer uncanny portraits of the way it can heighten emotions equally the play of light he orchestrates on fine fabrics on children's skin or on various elements of his landscapes provides a startling anticipation of the Impressionists

Antoine Watteau 1684-1721 produced some of the most seductive drawings in Western art He is revered for mastering the *trois crayons* technique the subtle manipulation and expert balancing of red black and white chalks This book reproduces his finest examples revealing the delicacy and freedom of execution that so impressed early commentators and had such a profound effect on subsequent generations of artists notably François Boucher and Jean Honoré Fragonard Pierre Rosenberg and Louis Antoine Prat examine these masterly

studies focusing on the artist's development as a draughtsman the techniques that he perfected and the fascinating role that drawing played in his work

traces the life of the eighteenth century french artist examines his major drawings and paintings and assesses his contribution to art

excerpt from drawings of watteau not only did this illusionist who created a new art out of a renaissance mythology composed of persons and forms borrowed from italy succeed in idealising all the shadowy and elegant figures vowed to the cult of cupid but with infinite taste and a rare feeling which transported realities into dreams he conceived incomparable scenes landscapes of mysterious fairy like enchantment with blue horizons and sleepy lakes of unsurpassable luminosity about the publisher forgotten books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books find more at forgottenbooks com this book is a reproduction of an important historical work forgotten books uses state of the art technology to digitally reconstruct the work preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy in rare cases an imperfection in the original such as a blemish or missing page may be replicated in our edition we do however repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works

the essays in antoine watteau perspectives on the artist and the culture of his time offer a richly textured portrait of the artist's life work and reputation for students specialists and the general public the volume brings together art historians whose research is currently defining the field of watteau studies with scholars from history and literature who have published widely on the political and cultural trends of watteau's era essays include studies of the artist's drawing practice his relation to the emerging public sphere and the changing fortunes of his reputation as well as considerations of art dealing and fashion in watteau's time other essays take up conversation dance seduction and theatricality as essential themes of watteau's art this volume will be an indispensable resource for all those interested in the visual culture of regency france

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impressionists he is the inventor of la fête galante a genre that shows the bourgeoisie at play outdoors it was an update of the classic format which portrayed mythical beings in pastoral settings for rather than selling to royals or aristocrats watteau s art was purchased by rich bankers and tradesmen his solution was to forge a style they could accept he replaced traditional nymphs and shepherds with posh parisians shown at play not in some mythic arcadia but in their own contemporary parks and gardens he personalized the scenes with figures from two outside worlds those of the theatre and of music many of the models for such protagonists were watteau s own friends parisian actors and musicians he often drew his drawing ability remains spectacular but even more startling is his modernity

accompanying an exhibition in honor of philippe de montebello director emeritus of the metropolitan museum of art this engaging book examines the influence of music and theater on the art of jean antoine watteau 1684 1721 fifteen major paintings and a number of drawings by watteau that illustrate the connections between painting and the performing arts in paris are explored in addition drawings and prints by other 18th century artists featuring musical or theatrical subjects and objects and musical instruments are included publisher description

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marking the three hundredth anniversary of jean antoine watteau s death this publication takes a close revealing look at his recently rediscovered painting la surprise the painting la surprise by jean antoine watteau 1684 1721 belongs to a new genre of painting invented by the artist himself the fête galante these works which show graceful open air gatherings filled with scenes of courtship music and dance strolling lovers and actors do not so much tell a story as set a mood one of playful wistful nostalgic reverie esteemed by collectors in watteau s day as a work that showed the artist at the height of his skill and success la surprise vanished from public view in 1848 not to reemerge for more than a century and a half acquired by the getty museum in 2017 it has never before been the subject of a dedicated publication marking the three hundredth anniversary of watteau s death this book considers la surprise within the context of the artist s oeuvre and discusses the surprising history of collecting watteau in los angeles this volume

is published to accompany an exhibition on view at the j paul getty museum at the getty center from november 23 2021 to february 20 2022

a watteau abecedario is the listing of paintings that are believed to be authentic works by the artist it includes works that are still extant and those known only through engravings and documentary evidence such as auction catalogues as far as possible each entry includes a discussion of engravings made of the composition by watteau s contemporaries the painting s provenance its exhibition record a selective listing of significant bibliography and a discussion of the watteau drawings with which the painting is associated there are also notes on past scholarship a discussion of approximate dates that have been ascribed to the picture as well as consideration of issues of attribution and iconography this project is called a watteau abecedario rather than the watteau abecedario because it is certain that other scholars will disagree with some of the opinions expressed here also new works will undoubtedly come to light just as more and better information is bound to appear this is the nature of scholarship

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