



J.W. Waterhouse

Peter Trippi, John William Waterhouse (Illustrator)

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John William Waterhouse is among the most popular Victorian artists and many of his paintings, such as The Lady of Shallot, Hylas and the Nymphs and Ophelia, have become icons of femininity recognized the world over. With their compelling composition, glowing colour and Impressionist-inflected technique, these paintings are admired for their beauty, yet at the same time they have the power to transport the viewer into a romantic world of myth and legend.

J.W. Waterhouse Details

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From Reader Review J.W. Waterhouse for online ebook

F.J. Commelin says

Before i saw his works in the museum i thought them beautiful pictures.
But after seeing them : it's great artwork into the littlest detail.

Steven Peterson says

One of the joys of reading is learning. This review is focused on one new experience for me—the art and life of J. W. Waterhouse. I had no real knowledge of the Victorian, pre-Raphaelite perspective, before reading this book. As such, this book opened a new world for me; this book does what reading is best at—introducing us to new vistas.

The book is a combination of biography and critical analysis of Waterhouse's art. I am amazed at how many blank spots there are in his biography. One would have thought that someone so well known would have had a more complete record of his life story. The author of this book, Peter Trippi, speculates that Waterhouse's widow, after his death, may have destroyed his records and correspondence. And, indeed, if the author is correct, we know very little about Waterhouse's wife, Esther Kenworthy Waterhouse, outside of scraps of information here or there (and see a fine portrait of her by Waterhouse himself [see page 75:]).

He began by painting classical themes (e.g., "The Death of Coctes"), fairy tales/folklore (e.g., "Undine") , and so on (e.g., "The Slave"). As his work evolved, his art became more subtle and telling (e.g., with the classical themes, see the progression from "The Death of Coctes" to "The Remorse of Nero" and "Diogenes" and "The Favourites of the Emperor Honorius").

The next phase of his career was a major step forward in his work. Some of the key works (which I find stunning and powerful, as one juxtaposes the underlying stories with his paintings): "The Lady of Shalott," "Saint Eulalia," "Mariamne," and "Ophelia" (different versions of which are powerful in their own right). This review is already too long. Suffice it to say that his work continued to evolve.

The final chapter tries to place Waterhouse in context and make some judgments about his body of work. Trippi concludes that (Page 237): "His place in the history of art is guaranteed by his highly individual application of the Impressionist-inflected brushstroke to themes drawn from, or evocative of, the Pre-Raphaelite canon." If, like me, you are not at all conversant with the work of J. W. Waterhouse, this book is a wonderful resource. Even if you know quite a bit, this would still appear to me to be most useful, pulling many of his works into one volume while providing a sense of who he was and what his life was like.

Timothy Boyd says

An awesome art book. Great selection of a modern master's works. Very recommended

Marcos says

Una edición cuidadísima, con imágenes de gran calidad y muchísima información. 100% recomendado para cualquier persona a la que le guste el pintor o el arte victoriano en general.

Margaryta says

J.W. Waterhouse By far one of my most favorite artists I decided to do the Extended Essay for my IB diploma on him. It's a truly beautiful book, a wonderful mix of his personal life and his artwork, as well as some background information on his influences and the context for many of his pieces. The images were all such high quality and clearly labelled and easy to identify. I hope to one day buy this for my own personal collection instead of just taking it out from the library, this deserves to be on any art lover's bookshelf. I definitely uncovered some new works from him and got to revisit some of my personal favorites, all contained within one spine. Absolutely loved it.

JoséMaría BlancoWhite says

The hardback edition of this book is a gorgeous thing to have. Fact and works are all there beautifully arranged. Whether you love or not Waterhouse's works this is a must have book to any book shelf.

I was inclined to buy it following the path of excellent reviews at Amazon.com and I am not disappointed.

I love books on painting that give a good balance between the artists' lives and their works, which is something not so common as you would think it should be. Highly recommended, just beautiful.

Aurélie Knit & Read says

A magnificent book about one of my favourite painters. Pictures are great quality, this is pure joy for the (romantic) eyes.

Bekah says

I love John and this book has everything you could ever want.

Ana says

John William Waterhouse was a genius. He created some of the most beautiful and evocative paintings in the history of art. Here are some of my favorites.

Adonis

Ariadne on Naxos

Boreas

Echo and Narcissus

Ethereal maiden

Flowers

La belle

Miranda

Ophelia

Penelope and the suitors

Psyche entering Cupid's garden

Rose

Saint Cecilia

The Lady of Shalott

Undine

Apollo and Daphne

Gathering almond blossoms

Tristan and Isolde

Sorceress

Flora and the Zephyrs

Rain Jenning says

Waterhouse's paintings are lustful and ethereal at the same time, otherworldly and carnal meet in a fantasy world of his imagining. Nymphs and satyrs, sprites and faeries, beauties bathing, it's a very sensual world. The printing in this volume is first rate, and you can not only see the brushstrokes, you can feel them.

Lovers of the works of Gustav Klimt and Maxfield Parrish will love this subtler, but just as stylized, volume of paintings.

Mylksnake Wilson says

One of my favorite artists and books!

VeeDawn says

Hard to know how to rate this. I have always loved Waterhouse art, but the stories Trippi tells about the pictures and about what they mean were totally unknown to me. I guess I prefer my innocent interpretations of the artwork. I love the beautiful pictures in this volume, but am not really thrilled with the stories that tell about the painter.

Mary says

"To read"... more like, "to look at." Gimme gimme gimme!!! :)

Edward says

Author's Acknowledgements

--J. W. Waterhouse

Notes

Bibliography

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Picture Credits

Ron says

One of my favorite artists, learning about his life is of course interesting but having a complete record of his work is especially nice.
