



The Irrepressible Rosa Bonheur: “The 19th Century’s Most Famous Woman Artist”

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Sandrine Andrews, *Rosa Bonheur* (Larousse, 2022)—text in French; NB: this is the catalogue for the Musée d’Orsay’s current Bonheur exhibition
- Dore Ashton and Denise Browne, *Rosa Bonheur: A Life and a Legend* (Viking, 1981)
- Whitney Chadwick, *Women, Art, and Society* (Thames & Hudson, 6th ed., 2020)
- Delia Gaze (ed.), *Dictionary of Women Artists* (Fitzroy Dearborn, 1997), 2 volumes; note, in particular, the 20 introductory essays
- Nancy G. Heller, *Women Artists: An Illustrated History* (Abbeville Press, 4th ed., 2003)
- Catherine Hewitt, *Art is a Tyrant: The Unconventional Life of Rosa Bonheur* (Icon Books, 2020)
- Anna Klumpke, *Rosa Bonheur: The Artist’s (Auto)Biography*, translated by Gretchen van Slyke (University of Michigan Press, 2001)
- James Mackay, *The Animaliers* (E.P. Dutton, 1973)
- Francis Ribemont, et al, *Rosa Bonheur: 1822-1899* (Musées de Bordeaux/William Blake & Co., 1997)
- James Saslow, “Disagreeably Hidden: Construction and Constriction of the Lesbian Body in Rosa Bonheur’s *Horse Fair*,” in Norma Broude and Mary D. Garrard (eds.), *The Expanding Discourse: Feminism and Art History* (HarperCollins, 1992), pp. 186-205
- Theodore Stanton, *Reminiscences of Rosa Bonheur* (Appleton, 1910; reprinted by Hacker Art Books, 1976)
- Emily Watlington, “The *Animalier’s* Paradox: Rosa Bonheur at the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Bordeaux,” in *Art in America*, October 17, 2022

NAMES, TERMS, & CONCEPTS

- animalier, animalière*
- hierarchy of artistic subjects, “history” paintings
- the *Prix de Rome*
- the *École des Beaux-Arts* (Paris)
- Musée d’Orsay, Paris
- gender binary
- Le Salon*
- Saint-Simonianism
- copying (plaster casts, engravings, Old Master paintings in a museum)
- The French Revolution (1789-92) + revolutions in 1830 and 1848; the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71)
- abattoirs

“cross-dressing” permits
 blue, French “peasant” smocks
 Lesbianism
 Nathalie Micas
 Anna Klumpke
Exposition Universelle (World’s Fair) of 1889, Paris
 other notable *animaliers*/influences: Constant Troyon, Paulus Potter, George Stubbs,
 Eugène Delacroix, Théodore Gericault, Edwin Landseer
 Théophile Gautier
 Percheron horses
 Parthenon frieze (relief sculptures of horses and riders), 5th century BC, by Phidias
 Ernest Gambart
 Le Château de By at Thomery, France
 The Legion of Honor
 Empress Eugénie
 William F. Cody (“Buffalo Bill”)

PRINCIPAL ARTWORKS DISCUSSED (in the order in which they were presented)

Rosa Bonheur, *Two Rabbits Nibbling on Carrots*, 1840 (Musée des Beaux-Arts, Bordeaux)
 E. L. Dubufe, *Portrait of Rosa Bonheur*, 1857 (Collection Palace of Versailles)
 Anna Klumpke, *Portrait of Rosa Bonheur*, 1898 (Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC)
 Rosa Boheur, *Ploughing in the Nivernais*, 1849 (Musée d’Orsay, Paris)
 Rosa Bonheur, *The Horse Fair*, 1853 (Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC)
 + Bonheur’s many paintings of dogs, horses, cattle, sheep and goats, deer, lions, tigers....

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Books for Children:

Maryann Macdonald, *Rosa’s Animals: The Story of Rosa Bonheur and her Painting Menagerie* (Abrams, 2018)

Olive M. Price, *Rosa Bonheur: Painter of Animals* (Arcade Books, 1972)

Le Musée de l’Atelier de Rosa Bonheur—her former home, now a museum and research center in Thomery, France

Elaine Sciolino, “The Redemption of Rosa Bonheur,” *Smithsonian Magazine*, online, posted November 1, 2022 www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/redemption...

The National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson Hole, WY, which owns six paintings by Bonheur, plus five sculptures by her brother Isidore Jules Bonheur

Two French-language feature films about other notable, and controversial, 19th-century women artists: *Artemisia* (1997, directed by Agnès Merlet and starring Valentina Cervi as Artemisia Gentileschi and Michel Serrault as her father) and *Camille Claudel* (1988; Bruno Nuytten, director; starring Isabelle Adjani with Gérard. Depardieu as Auguste Rodin)

Two important American female *animalier* sculptors: Anna Vaughn Hyatt Huntington (1876-1973) and Deborah Butterfield (b. 1949)

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