

Stories from Behind the Artist's Easel: highlights
from the Etta Sharp collection

SUPPORTING
**YEAR OF
STORIES**
— 2022 —



(From left to right)

Column 1

Girl at Fountain, Richard Westall R. A. (1765-1836)

ELGNM: 1948.34

Westhall was a painter and illustrator. He is probably best known for his portraits of Lord Byron, but also painted portraits of Princess Victoria (Queen Victoria) and poet John Milton. He was a prolific book illustrator of both fiction and poetry, including the works of Sir Walter Scott, Oliver Goldsmith, William Cowper and Thomas Gray – he even illustrated editions of the Bible.

Westhall was Queen Victoria's drawing-master from 1828 until his death in 1836.

Primroses, William Henry Hunt (1790-1864)

ELGNM: 1948.1

William Hunt was one of the key figures in 19th century English watercolour painting. He was nicknamed '*Bird's Nest*' Hunt because of his many detailed, naturalistic still lifes of fruit, flowers, and birds' nests

Column 2

Spring, Helen Allingham RWS (1848-1926)

ELGNM: 1948.13

A watercolourist and illustrator, Paterson showed a talent for art from an early age coming from a family of artists. Her early career focussed on illustration work for children's and adult books, as well as for periodicals, including The Graphic newspaper.

While Vincent van Gogh was developing as an artist by studying English illustrated journals he was struck by Paterson's work in The Graphic. After he marriage, in 1874, she turned instead to watercolour painting.

She was the first woman to be admitted as a full member of the Royal Watercolour Society, in 1890.

Faquita, Sir William Russell Flint RA ROI (1880-1969)

ELGNM: 1948.47

Flint was an artist and illustrator, working in watercolour, oils, tempera and printmaking. Early in his career, while studying at the Heatherley School of Fine Art in London, he worked as a medical illustrator. He was an artist for The Illustrated London News from 1903 to 1907, and produced illustrations for editions of several books, including H. Rider Haggard's King Solomon's Mines (1907 edition) and Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales (1912).

Flint was president of Britain's Royal Society of Painters in Watercolours (now the Royal Watercolour Society) from 1936 to 1956 and was knighted in 1947.

Column 3

'Off Whitby', George Chambers (1803-1840)

ELGNM: 1948.23

Chambers began his working life aged 8 on the coal sloops in his hometown of Whitby. Aged 10, his artistic talent impressed his Captain enough to release him from his apprenticeship. He made his way to London in 1825 to pursue his painting career.

From his humble beginnings, by 1831 he was under the patronage of King William IV and Queen Adelaide. His most important commission was *The Bombardment of Algiers, 1816* by Lord Exmouth, commissioned by the admiral's friends for the Naval Gallery at Greenwich Hospital in 1836 (and now in the National Maritime Museum).

Figures in a Landscape, William Payne (1760-1830)

ELGNM: 1948.2

Artists amongst you may be familiar with the colour *Payne's Grey*. This was invented by artist & etcher William Payne. He was also innovative in his style and methods and is credited with creating new brush techniques, becoming a sought-after drawing-master in London. He did much to advance the technique of watercolour painting and was among the first artist to adopt a more poetical treatment of landscape scenery.

'Near Brighton', John Constable RA (1776-1837)

ELGNM: 1948.29

Best known for his pastoral landscape scenes of the Dedham Vale, Constable's maritime scenes are perhaps less well known. He moved to Brighton with his family in 1824, in the hope that the sea air would improve his ailing wife's health. Sadly, she passed away in 1828, aged 41.

Although his paintings are now among the most popular and valuable in British art, in his lifetime Constable sold only 20 paintings in England.

Column 4

'Hawking Party', J. Frederick Tayler (1802-1889)

ELGNM: 1948.41

A renowned English landscape watercolour painter, John Frederick Tayler served as president of the Royal Watercolour Society from 1858 to 1870. Early in his career, he worked under French artists Horace Vernet and Paul Delaroche. Famous for his 'elegant' sporting and pastoral scenes, his work showcased the costumes and accessories of 18th century stag-hunts.

Dorking Church, J. M. W. Turner RA (1775-1851)

ELGNM: 1948.17

Turner was a prolific artist, said to have left behind 550 oil paintings, 2,000 watercolours and 30,000 works on paper. Famously championed by the leading English art critic John Ruskin, today Turner is known globally and is regarded as having elevated landscape painting to an eminence rivalling history painting.

The Timber Mill, Greenhyth, Philip Wilson Steer OM (1860-1942)

ELGNM: 1948.33

Throughout his career, Steer created landscapes, seascapes, portraits and figure studies, and was an influential art teacher.

He was a leading figure in the Impressionist movement in Britain, later adopting a more traditional style influenced by both Constable and Turner. He influenced generations of young artists in his role as a painting tutor at the Slade School of Art.