

Sir John Everett Millais



What Is He Famous For?

Sir John Everett Millais was a famous artist who helped start an artistic style known as the Pre-Raphaelite (say 'pre-raf-e-lite') movement.

Millais' Early Life

Millais was born in 1829 in Southampton into a rich family. Millais spent a lot of his childhood in Jersey where his father's family were from. From an early age, Millais showed a great talent for art. When he was nine, his family moved to London so he could attend a special art school.

The Royal Academy

At the age of 11, Millais won a place at the Royal Academy, a very special art college. Millais was the youngest ever person to go. Millais won several awards at the Academy. While there, Millais became friends with other artists, including William Holman Hunt and Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood

In 1848, Millais, Hunt and Rossetti formed a secret group called the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. This group didn't like the style that lots of people painted in at this time. They even nicknamed a painter called Sir Joshua Reynolds 'Sir Sloshua'! The Pre-Raphaelites painted Biblical stories, as well as famous plays, books and poems. They tried to make their paintings look as real as possible and included lots of nature in their work.

Ophelia

This is one of Millais' most famous paintings. It shows Ophelia from Shakespeare's play Hamlet and is painted on canvas with oil paints. A lady named Elizabeth Siddal was the model for Ophelia. She lay in a bath while Millais sketched!



Sir John Everett Millais, Bt
Ophelia (1851-1852) © Tate

Mariana

This is another character from a Shakespeare play – Mariana from Measure for Measure. She has been left by her fiancé and lives alone. It is painted on mahogany wood with oil paints. Mariana has pale skin and red hair, which is the type of model that was popular with Pre-Raphaelite painters.

Millais' Family

In 1855, Millais married Euphemia Chalmers, known as Effie. They had four sons and four daughters. They lived in Perth, in Scotland, for many years where Millais continued to paint.

Honours

Millais was made a special member of the Royal Academy because of the important paintings he had done. In 1885, he was made a baronet, which meant that he was called 'Sir'. In 1896, Millais was made President of the Royal Academy. He died shortly after in London. He is buried in St Paul's Cathedral and has a statue in his honour outside Tate Britain in London.



Sir John Everett Millais, Bt
Mariana (1851)
© Tate

Sir John Everett Millais



What Is He Famous For?

Sir John Everett Millais was a famous artist who helped start an artistic style known as the Pre-Raphaelite movement.

Millais' Early Life

Millais was born in 1829 in Southampton. His family were wealthy. Millais spent a lot of his childhood in Jersey, where his father's family were from. As a child, he showed a great talent for art and was known to be quite gifted. In 1838, his family moved to London so he could attend Sass's Art School. Here, he won an award for his work.

The Royal Academy

Millais won a place at the Royal Academy when he was 11. This was an important art college. Millais was the youngest ever person to attend. Millais won several awards at the Academy, including a gold medal for his painting *The Tribe of Benjamin Seizing the Daughters of Shiloh*. It was here that Millais became friends with other artists, including William Holman Hunt and Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood

In 1848, Millais, Hunt and Rossetti formed a secret art society known as the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. At the time, the work of the artist Raphael was popular and was promoted by the Royal Academy. The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood did not like this style. They even nicknamed the painter Sir Joshua Reynolds (who painted in the style of Raphael)



Sir John Everett Millais, Bt
Hearts are Trumps (1872)
© Tate

'Sir Sloshua'. The Pre-Raphaelites used Biblical stories, as well as famous plays, books and poems as their subjects. They included lots of nature in their work and also used realism (where paintings look as real as possible).



Sir John Everett Millais, Bt
Ophelia (1851-1852) © Tate

Ophelia

This is one of Millais' most famous paintings. It shows Ophelia from Shakespeare's play, Hamlet. It is painted on canvas with oil paints. Millais had help from artist, poet and model Elizabeth Siddal. She lay in a bath while Millais sketched.

Mariana

This is another character from a Shakespeare play – Mariana from Measure for Measure. Mariana is a character who lives on her own in a lonely grange surrounded by a moat. She has been left by her fiancé. It is painted on mahogany wood with oil paints and we see again a pale-skinned lady with red hair, a popular model for Pre-Raphaelite painters.



Sir John Everett Millais, Bt
Mariana (1851)
© Tate

Millais' Family

In 1855, Millais married Euphemia Chalmers, known as Effie. They had four sons and four daughters. For many years, they lived in Perth in Scotland, where Millais continued to paint. During this time, he also created illustrations for magazines and advertisements.

Honours

Millais was made an Associate of the Royal Academy in 1853 and a full member in 1863. In 1885, he was made a baronet. This meant that he was called 'Sir' and so was the eldest son from each following generation. In 1896, Millais was elected President of the Royal Academy. He died not long after in London. He is buried in St Paul's Cathedral and has a statue in his honour outside Tate Britain in London.

Sir John Everett Millais



What Is He Famous For?

Sir John Everett Millais was a famous artist who helped start an artistic style known as the Pre-Raphaelite movement.

Millais' Early Life

Millais was born in 1829 in Southampton, into a wealthy family. Millais spent a lot of his childhood in Jersey where his father's family were from. From an early age, Millais showed a great talent for art and was known as a prodigy. In 1838, his family moved to London so he could attend Sass's Art School, where he won an award for his work.

The Royal Academy

At the age of 11, Millais won a place at the Royal Academy, a prestigious art college. Millais was the youngest ever person to attend. Millais won several awards at the Academy, including a gold medal for his painting 'The Tribe of Benjamin Seizing the Daughters of Shiloh'. While there, Millais became friends with other artists, including William Holman Hunt and Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood

In 1848, Millais, Hunt and Rossetti formed a secret art society known as the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. At the time, the work of the artist Raphael was greatly admired and was promoted by the Royal Academy. The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood did not like this style. They even nicknamed the painter Sir Joshua Reynolds (who painted in



the style of Raphael) 'Sir Slosua'. The Pre-Raphaelites used Biblical stories, as well as famous plays, books and poems as their subjects. They included a lot of nature in their work and also used realism (where paintings look as real as possible).

Sir John Everett Millais, Bt
Hearts are Trumps (1872)
© Tate



Sir John Everett Millais, Bt
Ophelia (1851-1852) © Tate

Ophelia

This is one of Millais' most famous paintings. It shows the tragic character Ophelia from Shakespeare's play Hamlet. It is painted on canvas with oil paints and Millais used artist, poet and model Elizabeth Siddal, who lay in a bath while Millais sketched.

Mariana

This is another character from a Shakespeare play – Mariana from Measure for Measure. Mariana is a character who lives on her own in a lonely grange surrounded by a moat. She has been left by her fiancé because her dowry (payment to him) was lost in a shipwreck. It is painted on mahogany wood with oil paints and we see again a pale-skinned lady with red hair, which is the type of model that was popular with Pre-Raphaelite painters.



Sir John Everett Millais, Bt
Mariana (1851) © Tate

Millais' Family

In 1855, Millais married Euphemia Chalmers, known as Effie. They had four sons and four daughters. For many years, they lived in Perth in Scotland, where Millais continued to paint and create illustrations for magazines and advertisements. He returned to London in 1861, where he was a successful painter of children, including a very famous advert for Pears Soap.

Honours

Millais was made an Associate of the Royal Academy in 1853, and a full member in 1863. In 1885, he was made a baronet. This meant that he was called 'Sir' and that the eldest son from each subsequent generation would also be called 'Sir'. In 1896, Millais was elected President of the Royal Academy. He died shortly after in London. He is buried in St Paul's Cathedral and has a statue in his honour outside Tate Britain in London.