



John Singer Sargent, 'The Bridge of Sighs', 1903-1904

John Singer Sargent

-“You can’t do sketches enough. Sketch everything and keep your curiosity fresh.”

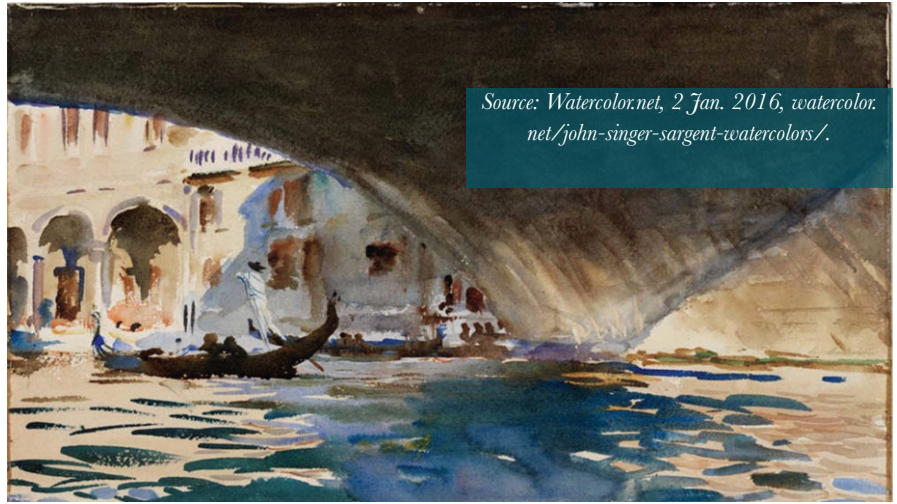




John Singer Sargent, "Self Portrait," 1906

John was born in Florence Italy in 1856 and both his parents were Americans. John's mother encouraged his natural ability at drawing and he has many sketches from traveling around the world.

In 1870, the artist entered Accademia delle Belle Arti, then later on moved to Paris where he went to Ecole des Beaux Art and soon transferred to a private studio.



Source: Watercolor.net, 2 Jan. 2016, watercolor.net/john-singer-sargent-watercolors/.

John Singer Sargent's "Venice: Under the Rialto Bridge," 1909

He started with painting portraits of people but when he moved to London, he resumed to plein air painting. John was influenced by Monet and in 1887 had renewed an old interest in watercolor painting. John Singer Sargent was one of the best leading portrait artist of the 1800's, with his customers mostly being wealthy British and American families. He is said to have created about 2,000 watercolors, charcoal drawings, and sketches as well as about 900 oil paintings. John created water paintings as he travelled the world such as the Middle East, North Africa, Italy, Venice, Corfu.

He had many of water paintings based on Venice and in his last decade he had made many watercolors as he traveled American West, Main and Florida. By 1900 he was known as the greatest Anglo-American portrait painter of his time. He was recognized by both The Brooklyn Museum and The Museum of Fine Art, Boston which purchased Singers Watercolor works. His canvases were oil color paintings and classical compositions which displayed his mastery of color. Sargent delivered a sense of mystery in his subjects faces. By the 1900's he started watercoloring to extend his creative reach. He participated in two major watercolor exhibitions in the United States.

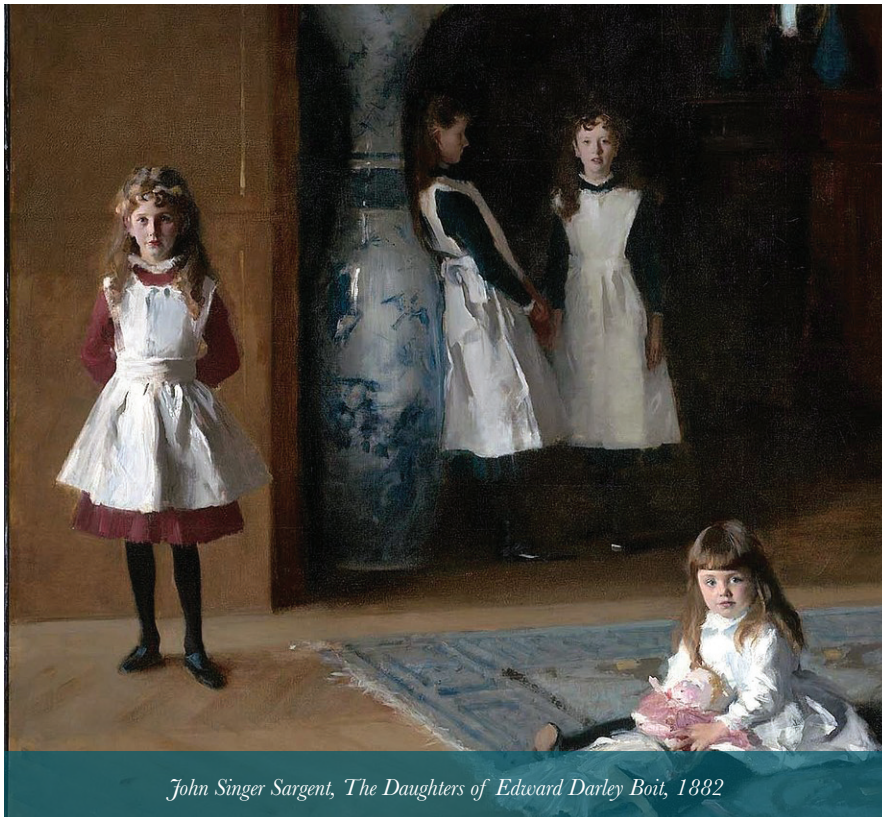


John Singer Sargent, Corfu, Lights and Shadows, 1909

John Singer Sargent

-“It is certain that at certain times talent entirely
overcomes thought or poetry.”





John Singer Sargent, The Daughters of Edward Darley Boit, 1882

John Singer Sargent created the oil painting of *The Daughters of Edward Darley Boit* in 1882 which was a portrait for one of the members of the American expatriate community. John was a friend of the Boit girls parents who were known as Edward Darley Boit and Mary Louisa Cushing Boit. The family lived in a luxurious apartment which served as the setting to Singers portrait, which was a large spacious room that was shadowy and Singer had placed all four daughters, Mary Louisa, Florence, Jane and the youngest Julia.

He had placed the girls in the entrance hall which was brightly lit in the foreground, also half lit with the mirrors reflections. There are also two tall Japanese vases, which their unusual sizes in relation to the girls makes the interior seem magical and unusual. They all wore similar dresses that were white because Singer wanted to demonstrate his mastery of painting white in the different conditions of light. Initially the parents wanted Singer to create a traditional portrait of their girls, but they supported his ambition to create something different and unusual.

Therefore he created an unusual painting of the girls that was half portrait and half interior scene. Each of the girls is represented individually and there are no connections between any of them.

The unusual format of this painting was inspired by both the present and past, it was an approach to make paintings that seemed traditional and modern. Sargent titled the painting *The Portraits of Children* and took it to an exhibition at a gallery of the French dealer Georges Petit in December of 1882 and earned recognition.

Source: "The Daughters of Edward Darley Boit."
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 21 Aug 2017,
www.mfa.org/collections/object/the-daughters-of-edward-darley-boit-31782.