

# RUSSELL-COTES

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HOUSE • GALLERY • GARDEN

## Paintings & Sculptures List – The Dining Room

### ***The Fruit Seller***

**Giuseppe Signorini (1857-1932)**

**Watercolour, body colour and gum Arabic paper**

Giuseppe Signorini was an Italian painter, born in Rome, and mainly focused on orientalist subjects. He studied at the Accademia di San Luca, and then worked under Aurelio Tiratelli. He often travelled to the Paris Salon exhibitions and was influenced by the styles and orientalist themes



expressed by painters like Mariano Fortuny, Ernest Meissonier, and Gérôme. He often travelled to the Maghreb for inspiration and developed a substantial collection of Islamic art and textiles. He also painted portraits in costume garb. He maintained studios in both Paris and Rome.

**BORGM 1995:66**

### ***Voltaire, 1781***

**After Jean-Antoine Houdon (1741-1828)**

**Bronze**

Francois-Marie Arouet (1694-1778), otherwise known as Voltaire, is one of the greatest figures of French literature. He was educated in Paris and expected by his father to pursue a legal career. However, the young Voltaire was more interested in writing and quickly began to make a name for



himself in intellectual circles. He was chiefly known as a satirist and, as such, was imprisoned in the Bastille on several occasions. His plays, beginning with *Oedipe* in 1718, earned him great success and esteem, although he was never too popular with the French Government. Between 1726-9 he lived in England, where he fled to escape the intolerance of the authorities. After his return to France he continued to direct his energies against the tyranny of Church and State, as well as what he considered fashionable but ill thought out philosophies. His output took many forms including poetry, drama, satire, philosophy and fiction, such as *Candide*. For the last three decades of his life, Voltaire was regarded as probably the greatest writer in Europe. He died shortly after the premiere of his final play, aged 84. Houdon was born in 1741, in France, and was something of a child prodigy. At the age of twelve he entered the Ecole Royale de Sculpture and in 1761 became the youngest ever winner of the Prix de Rome. After a period of time in Italy, where he sculpted many religious statues, he began to specialise in portraiture, using the most eminent Europeans of the time as his sitters. The work he produced during this period reveals him as perhaps the greatest portrait sculptor of the period. Although he was not often commissioned during the Napoleonic Period, he did sculpt both *Napoleon* and *Empress Josephine* and was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour.

### **71.38.9 BORGM**

#### ***The Billet Doux, 1882***

**William Oliver (1804-1853)**

**Oil on canvas**

William Oliver was a painter of charming genre scenes, including titles such as *A Thing of Beauty is a Joy Forever* and *The Billet Doux*, and was one of the more popular Victorian artists of his time. Oliver was particularly fond of the Pyrenean area of France and Spain and completed many small



studies of the towns and villages in this area. Many of these small works were then purchased by the young travellers as souvenirs of their Grand Tour. While he favoured painting *plein air* works, he did complete a number of large and important works during his career – most of which were either created for specific exhibitions or commissions.

## **BORGM 01686**

### ***Napoleon, 19<sup>th</sup> Century***

#### **Sculptor unattributed**

#### **Marble**

Merton Russell-Cotes cultivated people of high standing assiduously in real life as well as collecting them in the form of art works. He had a particular interest in Napoleonic objects (which can be seen in various rooms in East Cliff Hall). Napoleon married Josephine Behauharnais in 1796 a week after receiving command of the Italian Army. The peace of Campo Formio and the strategic concepts behind the Egyptian campaign marked him out as an original thinker. On returning from Egypt he used the widespread disillusionment with the Directory as an opportunity to seize power and establish the Consulate, promising to give France government and peace. Hence, the Civil Code, the Concordat and reforms in education, finance and commercial life offered the French their best government for more than a century. Despite the abandonment of his invasion plans against England, the war of the Third Coalition brought him a succession of victories - Austerlitz, Jena and Friedland were the most important ones. He was able to establish a French Empire from the Baltic to the Adriatic, with client states in Warsaw, Germany and Italy. The Wagram campaign of 1809 was the last occasion on which Napoleon achieved a succession of military triumphs and the humbling of Austria was followed by the



Habsburg marriage, in which Napoleon took Archduchess Marie Louise as his second wife in order to secure an heir.

**SC12 BORG**

***Bust of a Young Woman, c.1890-1910***

**Pio Semal**

**Bronze**

**T3.7.2000.9 BORG**



***Dying Gaul***

**Sculptor unattributed**

**381.34.48 BORG**



***Summer, 1866-1907***

**Pierre Louis Detrier (1822-1897)**

**Bronze**

**SC549 BORG**



***Seascape [in over mantle]***

**Henry Moore (1831-1895)**

Henry Moore RA was an English marine and landscape painter. Almost all his early pictures were landscapes, painted in many parts of England, or in Switzerland. It was towards 1870, that



he began to devote himself almost exclusively to the marine subjects in which the best work of his maturity was done. He had a profound and scientific knowledge of wave-form, acquired at the cost of exposure in all weathers, and he was generally content to paint the



sea itself without introducing ships or human figures. He made his studies chiefly in the English Channel. He was a fine colourist and held the foremost rank among English marine painters of his day. Among the most remarkable of his Academy pictures are *A White Calm* (1858), *The Launch of the Lifeboat* (1876), now in the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, *Cat's-paws off the Land*, which was bought out of the funds of the Chautrey Bequest in 1885, and is now at Tate, *The Clearness after Rain* (1887), which won for the painter the grand prix and legion of honour at the Paris Exhibition of 1889, *A Breezy Day in the Channel* (1888), *Shine and Shower* (1889), *Summer at Sea* (1893), and *Britannia's Realm* (1880).

**BORG M 01539**

### ***Diana*, 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

**Jean-Alexandre-Joseph Falguière**

**Bronze**

Diana was the goddess of the hunt, the moon, and nature in Roman mythology, associated with wild animals and woodland, and having the power to talk to and control animals. Diana was known as the virgin goddess of childbirth and women and was one of the three maiden goddesses, along with Minerva and Vesta, who swore never to marry. Oak groves and deer were especially sacred to her. Diana was born with her twin brother, Apollo, on the island of Delos, daughter of Jupiter and Latona. She made up a triad with two other Roman deities; Egeria the water nymph, her servant and assistant midwife; and Virbius, the woodland god. Falguière was born in Toulouse, France and was a painter and sculptor. A pupil of the École des Beaux-Arts, he won the Prix de Rome in 1859; he was awarded the medal of honour at the Paris Salon in 1868 and was appointed Officer of the Legion of Honour in 1878.

**SC19 BORG M**



### ***Sarpedon*, late 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

**Henri Peinte (1845-1912)**

**Bronze**

Sarpedon, in Greek legend, son of Zeus, the king of the gods, and Laodameia, the daughter of Bellerophon; he was a Lycian prince and a hero in the Trojan War. As recounted in Homer's *Iliad*, Book XVI, Sarpedon fought with distinction on the side of the Trojans but was slain by the Greek warrior Patroclus. A struggle took place for the possession of his body until Apollo rescued it from the Greeks, washed it, anointed it with ambrosia, and handed it over to Hypnos and Thanatos (Sleep and Death), by whom it was conveyed for burial to Lycia. In this sculpture by Henri Peinte, Sarpedon is seen bending his bow with his quiver and arrows at his feet. Henri Peinte (1845-1912) studied under Duret and Cavalier and exhibited at the Salon from 1877, winning the third class medal and the Prix de Salon on his debut, a second class medal in 1887 and the Grand Prix and the Legion d'honneur, both in 1889. He specialised in classical figures and groups, such as *Orpheus*, *Sarpendon* and *Philoktet* on Lemnos.



**SC18 BORG M**

### ***Centaur & Nymph*, 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

**Josef Müllner**

**Bronze**

Josef Müllner was an Austrian sculptor, best known for his monumental sculptures such as the monument to Karl Lueger at Dr. Karl-Lueger-Platz in Vienna.

**SC95 BORG M**



***A Welsh River, 1907***

**Benjamin Williams Leader (1831-1923)**

**Oil on canvas**

Benjamin Williams Leader was an artist whose work defined and epitomised a distinctive Victorian approach to landscape painting. His faithfulness to his subject is apparent in his paintings, which lose symbolic imagery in favour of a naturalism espoused by many British artists. He trained as an engineer before joining the Royal Academy schools where he changed his name from Benjamin Leader Williams to Benjamin Williams Leader. He became an ARA in 1883 and a full RA in 1893, as well as amassing numerous honours including a medal at the Chicago's World Fair in 1893. The setting of the work is the River Llugwy between the villages of Betws-y-Coed and Capel Curig in North Wales. This area was a popular haunt for Leader and his contemporary landscape painters. North Wales was a favourite subject for Leader who visited every summer from the late 1850's until 1889. Merton collected several paintings by Leader, including one which was recently discovered not to be by him. *A Welsh River* was sold to the Russell Cotes in 1927 on the advice of George Knight who wrote to Quick saying that it '*was considered the best price of the year*' at the 1907 RA exhibition.



**BORGM 01286**

***Ramsgate Sands or Life at the Sea Side, 1905***

**William Powell Frith (1819-1909)**

*'My summer holiday of 1851', wrote Frith, 'was spent at Ramsgate. Weary of costume painting, I had determined to try my hand on modern life, with all its drawbacks of unpicturesque dress. The variety of character*



*on Ramsgate Sands attracted me – all sorts and conditions of men and women were there.* It was this holiday of 1851, which gave the idea to Frith of painting a grand panorama of modern life. It took several years to complete the final version, which appeared in 1854. Between 1851 and 1854 Frith returned to Ramsgate to draw the surrounding buildings and people on the beach.

When it appeared at the Royal Academy summer exhibition of 1854 as *Life at the Sea Side*, it was with an uncertainty about the reaction of critics. The picture, however, was a great success and at a private view, Queen Victoria expressed an interest in buying the work. On being told it was already purchased by a dealer, she brought the work from him for no gain on the art dealer's part, other than from the lucrative sales he made of prints from the work. The work is presently in the Royal Collection. The popularity of the work caused Frith to paint a few copies of the original and this version was painted in 1905 and bought by Sir Merton Russell-Cotes.

**BORGM 00850**

***Luther's Hymn: Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott*** ('A safe stronghold our God is still')

**Professor Walther Firlé (1859-1929)**

**Oil on canvas**



Walter or Walther Firlé was a 19th-century painter from Germany. He was born in Wrocław and is known for portraits and genre works. He died in Munich, where much of his work remains in public collections.

**BORGM 00811**