

**RUSSELL-COTES**  
HOUSE • GALLERY • GARDEN

**Paintings & Sculptures List – Red Room**

***Study for Helios***

**Lucy Elizabeth Kemp-Welch (1869-1958)**

**BORGM 2006.15**



***The Orchard***

**James Aumonier (1832-1911)**

**Oil on canvas**

**BORGM 00175**



***Kenilworth, Warwickshire, 1880***

**J. Laurence Hart (c.1830-1907)**

**Oil on canvas**

**BORGM 2001.26**



***Coastal Scene, 1889***

**William Raymond Dommersen (1850-1927)**

**Oil on panel**

**BORGM 1995.42.1**



***Vegetable Patch with a Duck***

**Francesco Vinea (1845-1902) (attributed to)**

**Oil on board**

**T20.2.2007.4**



***Love Locked Out*, 1889 (copy of Anna Lea Merritt)**

**Henry Justice Ford (1860-1941)**

**Oil on canvas**

The American artist, Anna Lea Merritt, made history when her painting, *Love Locked Out*, became the first painting by a female artist to be purchased for the nation. It is now held at Tate Britain, London.



Painted as a memorial to her recently deceased husband, Anna's portrayal of a naked Cupid caused a sensation when it was shown in at the Royal Academy in 1890. In Victorian society, the depiction of a male nude by a female artist was highly contentious. She only escaped censorship by choosing to paint a child, rather than a man.

Despite being a champion for women artists, Merton Russell-Cotes commissioned Henry Justice Ford to produce a copy of the most infamous work by a female artist.

**BORGM 00033**

***Reflections at the Spring*, 1884**

**Lionel Percy Smythe (1830-1918)**

**Oil on canvas**

Perhaps pausing from a walk, the subject stands bare-footed in a brook, lost in her thoughts. The flaxen colour of her hair is complemented by the brilliant blue of her dress, making the subject distinct from the



landscape. Although the model is unknown it is likely to have been Smythe's daughter, Minnie, who also became a painter.

Smythe, who painted rural landscapes, people, animals, genre and maritime scenes, became associated with a group of painters called the 'Idyllists'. The Idyllic school was a British 19<sup>th</sup> century art movement whose rural landscapes combined elements of social realism and idealism. Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890) admired the group, writing about them in letters to his brother, Theo. Today the Idyllists are seen as one of the earliest manifestations of the social realism movement in art.

**BORGM 02002**

***Study of a Highland Cow, 1915***

**Louis Bosworth Hurt (1856-1929)**

**Oil on board**

This delightful image of a highland cow is likely to have been a study for one of Hurt's larger works. Hurt lived in Derbyshire with his wife, Harriet, where the couple kept their own highland cattle. Hurt depicted these animals in his paintings as well as the cattle he saw in Bettwys-y-Coed, Wales, where he had a second home.



**BORGM 2001.18**

***Ethel, 1898***

**John William Godward (1861-1922)**

**Oil on canvas**

**BORM 00894**



***Always Welcome, 1887***

**Laura Teresa Epps Alma-Tadema (1852-1909)**

**Oil on canvas**

Always Welcome shows a young Dutch girl at her mother's sickbed.



We believe that this was one of Merton's favourite paintings. Despite this he sold it in 1905 but bought it back five years later.

Merton was very shrewd at selling paintings when an artist as popular and buying works back as they fell out of fashion.

Laura Alma-Tadema's work was often overshadowed by that of her husband, Lawrence. This piece was considered to be one of her finest and was loaned by Merton for her memorial exhibition in 1910.

**BORGM 00112**

***The Finishing Touch***

**William Bromley (c.1818-1888)**

**Oil on canvas**

**AH149**



***River of Lava Issuing From Mauna Loa, Hawaii, USA, 1880-1881***

**Charles Furneaux (1835-1913)**

**Oil on Board**

**BORGM 00785**

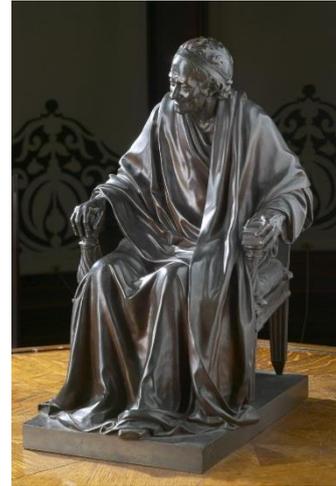


## ***Voltaire, 1781***

**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 BORG M**