

Biography

Painter, draftsman, engraver, caricaturist and decorator, François-Auguste Biard begins his studies at the School of Fine Arts in Lyon under the direction of Pierre-Henri Révoil. In 1824, he settles down in Paris then he leaves for Spain, Syria, Greece and Egypt, as an art teacher of Marine. Back to France, he becomes the official portrait painter of the court and receives as such the Cross of Honor in 1838.

In 1839 Biard is named official painter of the expedition towards Spitsbergen " The Research ", where he leaves accompanied with his fiancée Léonie d'Aunet. During this expedition he executes several sketches which will give rise to paintings and to four decorative panels with Scandinavian for the National Natural History Museum of Paris.

François Auguste Biard is an adventurer and likes travelling. In 1858 he undertakes a new expedition, this time in Brazil. He visits several regions and investigates the banks of the Amazon, Negro and Madeira Rivers. In 1859, he is in Rio de Janeiro where he creates portraits of the Portuguese court members in the studio of Paço Impérial, where emperor Dom Pedro II provides him with. He is even named emeritus professor of the Imperial Academia de Belas Artes.

From Brazil, Biard leaves for North America where he visits several American states. Paintings " How we travel by railway in North America " presented to the 1861 Salon and " The hunting in polar bears " testify to his journeys up to the north pole. Several paintings also evoke the attention which he carries in the slavery with " Slaves running away ".

Back to France in 1862, he publishes the book " Two years in Brazil ", illustrated by Edouard Riou's engravings elaborated from his drawings.

Biard considers the painting as a mean to express ideas, facts and feelings. He paints the persons in their everyday lives. He also collects objects of anthropological interest making of the artist a painter of customs. Original and fertile painter, he also works for publications dedicated to the geographical and maritime subjects.

Museums

Assemblée Nationale, Paris

Ministère des Postes, Paris

Musées des Beaux Arts de Bayeux, Amiens, Dieppe, Lyon

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