

A DAY IN THE ARTS

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SANDRO BOTTICELLI

AN ITALIAN, EARLY RENAISSANCE, TEMPERA ARTIST,
GRUDGED BY HISTORY

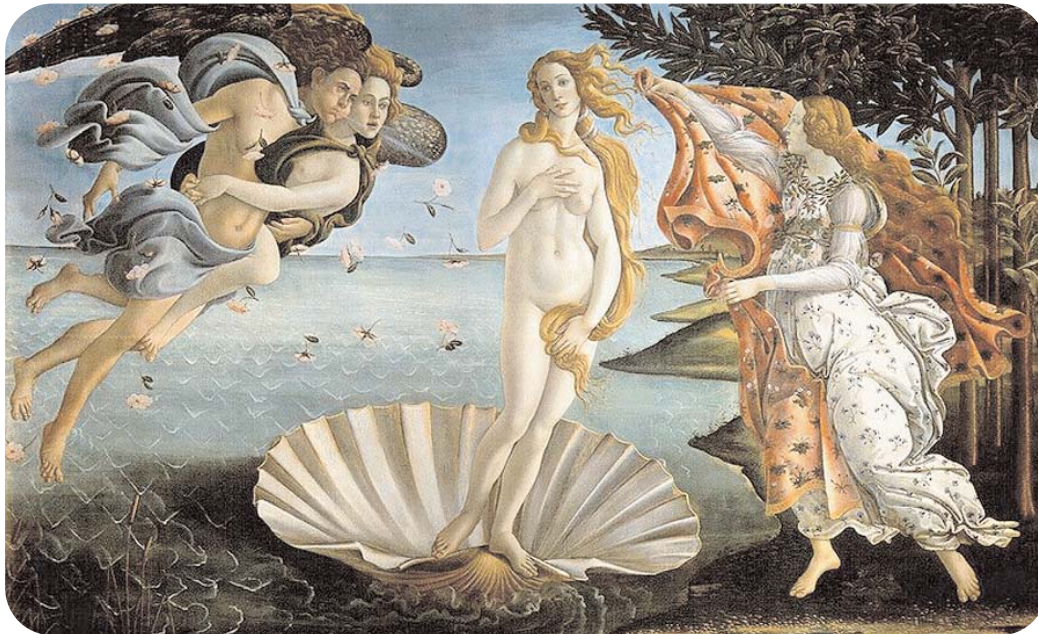
by Annette Labedzki

A “Little Barrel” (Il Botticello) is not the most flattering of names, neither is it artistic. It represents a plumber more than an artist. It was the least of the misunderstanding the Italian painter, Alessandro di Mariano di Vanni Filipepi or Sandro Botticelli, born on March 01, 1445 at Florence, Italy, suffered throughout his life and for quite some

time even after his death. His rightful place as the harbinger of ‘Renaissance Painting’ was covered with the unverified taints of blasphemy, pagan beliefs, and homosexual pursuits.

Sandro Botticelli was one of the doyens of the classical golden age of ‘Renaissance Art,’ an artist, whose ‘Tempera Paintings’ are a veritable index of Italian arts’ starting chapters.

Little documentation exists on him and unlike his fellow Florentine artists, such as Michelangelo or Da Vinci, Botticelli never managed any fame or fortune during or after his lifetime. In fact, the entire burden of his genius rests on two textbook perfect paintings “Primavera



WORD OF THE DAY

GRADATED WASH

A wash that is light or thin in an area where little color has been applied, and gradually becomes darker or heavier into another area, where more color has been applied.



“A painting that is well composed is half finished.”
-Pierre Bonnard

ART AEROBICS

Practice you drawing skills

Paint a study of the first rock you can find using oil or acrylics. Fifteen minutes painting time. ✎



(1478)" and "The Birth of Venus (1486)," made for the Medici (Head of Florence).

As was the norm and practice during the fifteenth century Italian society, Botticelli was apprenticed as a teenager (originally to goldsmith, Lippi) and soon moved into affluent Florence under the patronage of the almost obscenely rich Medici family. In 1470, Botticelli set up his own workshop. Religion was the dominant motif of his time and Botticelli was never a revolutionary painter. He did as he was told, rather, as Medici wanted his commissions to work. The artist created murals, wall frescoes, and paintings in the fashion of his day. However, Botticelli did

break away a couple of times, creating original masterpieces like "Man with a Medal (1474-75)," which emphasize his individual style of a strong linear perspective and a clear definition of human skin. During this phase, he created small but an imaginative body of work, which was so artistic that his period of work is often called the 'Golden Age of Renaissance.'

Sandro's "Adoration of the Magi (1475-76)" is often considered a mascot of Renaissance, an honor that he shares with "Mona Lisa" of Da Vinci and "David" of Michelangelo. This recognition was also too little and Botticelli was largely considered a mediocre artist (even by the Pre Raphaelites, a

group of English painters interested in Renaissance), until the early twentieth century when his works (previously considered anonymously painted), especially in Hungary, became known. In 1481, Botticelli upon invitation, Fresco painted the Sistine Chapel walls. Such Fresco stints of his continued until mid-1480. Charged for sodomy in 1502, the ever-unwed Botticelli was later acquitted. The artist died on May 17, 1510. Not all that is known about Botticelli comes from authentic records, but from the works of a later biographer, Giorgio Vasari, who was himself an artist.

As Botticelli's genius unraveled fully, almost five hundred years too late, his set of works, almost as prolific as other later masters underlined the fact that history had grudged this classical painter his pound of recognition. A recognition, which eluded many of the so called "Fresco-Painters" of Florence as that of an individual, rather than that of a workman artisan. 🐾

Annette Labeledzki received her BFA at the Emily Carr College of Art and Design in Vancouver, B.C. Canada. She has more than 25 years experience. She is the founder and developer of an online art gallery featuring original art from all over the world. It is a great site for art collectors to buy original art. It is also a venue for artists to display and sell their art. Artists can join for free and their image upload is unlimited. Please visit the website at <http://www.labeledzki-art.com>

First Page: Botticelli, Sandro, "The birth of Venus", c. 1485, Tempera on canvas, Uffizi, Florence

This page: Botticelli, Sandro, "Primavera", c. 1482 Tempera on wood, Galleria degli Uffizi, Florence



ART NEWS

Hudson River Paintings

Large-scale and dynamic describe the selections from the Metropolitan Museum of Art's American Paintings and Sculpture Department collections which will be on view in the New Britain Museum of American Art through Sept. 2010. "I believe you will be astonished by their beauty and significance," says Director Douglas Hyland.

The Hudson River School artists traveled out of crowded, industrialized cities to the Hudson River, as well as abroad and into the

West, to capture images of nature untouched by man. Church's *The Parthenon*, 1871, a six-foot wide masterpiece, was painted after the artist visited Greece, where he had the opportunity to make many studies and oil sketches. Their punctiliously accurate works sought to pay tribute to the innate beauty of the American landscape, as well as to serve as an instrument for spiritual contemplation.

The Hudson River School paintings included in the exhibit are Church's *The Parthenon*, Durand's *High Point: Shandaken Mountains*, Inness's *Delaware Water Gap*, and Kensett's *Sunset on the Sea*, Hudson River Scene and Eaton's *Neck, Long Island*, all of which impeccably capture the veracity of American landscapes. Accompanying the selection of Hudson River School paintings is the masterpiece *Harvest Scene*, by Winslow Homer (1836-

1910), the leading 19th-century genre painter.

CROCKER ART AUCTION

The Crocker Art Museum (Sacramento) will bring together regional artists and art collectors to raise funds for education programs during two Art Auction events. The events

return to Cal Expo for a third time while the Museum is under construction, allowing more than 200 of the regions most distinguished artists to participate.

"The Art Auction and Preview Party are my favorite events at the Crocker," said Lial A. Jones, Museum Director. "This is the perfect way for patrons to support both the Museum and practicing artists. The beginning collector and the seasoned connoisseur will certainly find works they'll want to take home."

The Art Auction, set to start at 5 p.m. on June 6, includes silent and live auctions, an elegant outdoor dinner buffet by Bella Bru Café and Catering, and heated competition as attendees bid on their favorite artworks by the likes of Pat Mahony, Mark Bowles, Robert Brady and more. <http://tinyurl.com/dg62pg>

PAUL GAUGUIN: PARIS, 1889

A major international exhibition opening this fall at the Cleveland Museum of Art explores a watershed moment of transformation in Gauguin's career that introduces the themes, motifs and the style that would emerge as hallmarks of his career. Featuring more than 75 paintings, sculptures, and works on paper by Paul Gauguin and his contemporaries, *Paul Gauguin: Paris, 1889*, is the first exhibition to focus on 1889 as a critical juncture in Gauguin's artistic development. *Paul Gauguin: Paris, 1889* is on view at The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) from October 4, 2009 through January 18, 2010; it will then travel to the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. www.ClevelandArt.org



Above: Frederic Edwin Church, *The Parthenon*, 1871, oil on canvas, 44.5 x 72.625", The Metropolitan Museum of Art