



Georges Edmond Dargouge

1897–1990 France

Georges Edmond Dargouge was born on March 27, 1897, in the 15th arrondissement of Paris. He demonstrated an early aptitude for art, and after his preparatory education pursued formal training at the *École des Beaux-Arts* under Fernand Cormon, Charles Fouqueray, Ferdinand Humbert, and Pierre Laurens — instructors who collectively shaped a practice rooted in disciplined observation and technical rigor. Resisting the prevailing tide of Impressionism, Dargouge developed a mode of soft realism inflected with nineteenth-century Romanticism, a stance that distinguished him among his contemporaries from the outset.

His academic achievements came quickly. In 1920 he began exhibiting at the *Salon des Artistes Français*, and in 1924 he was awarded the Second Grand Prix de Rome — the same year he received a bronze medal at the Salon. A silver medal followed in 1929. He went on to teach drawing at the *École Polytechnique* from 1948 to 1964, and maintained a teaching studio on the rue Bartholdi in Paris. In 1959 he was named official painter of the French Army, a designation that sent him across France and beyond as a visual chronicler of military life.

Dargouge's range as a painter was considerable. He worked across landscapes, cityscapes, seascapes, and portraiture, but his marine paintings — particularly those depicting the coast of Brittany — are among his most celebrated works. Reflecting the influence of Fouqueray, who held the title of *Peintre de la Marine* from 1908, these canvases render France's maritime world with a distinctive light realism: vessels set against the human labor of the sea, suffused throughout with a subtle, ethereal quality of light. Marine works that have come to auction include “*La Bénédiction de la mer*,” “*Le Port de Brest*,” “*Étrave de voilier*,” “*Bateau de pêche*,” “*Le Baptême de la mer*,” “*Cimetière matin*,” and “*Lac de Constance*.”

His landscapes and genre scenes are equally assured. Among the notable works are “*Matin triste, rue Daniel Stern dans le XVe à Paris*,” “*Première neige, Avenue Raphaël*,” “*Le Pont Neuf à Paris*,” “*The Afternoon Wash*” (1924), and “*Une Allée du Bois de Boulogne*.” His portraits — among them “*Portrait de la belle-mère de l'artiste*,” “*Portrait de l'épouse de l'artiste*,” “*Lady in a Black Coat*,” and his self-portrait “*Autoportrait jeune à la palette*” — reflect the further influence of Alexander Cabanel, the celebrated academician and portraitist.

A drawing by Dargouge entered the permanent collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1955. He died on May 5, 1990, in Boulogne-Billancourt. His work continues to appear regularly at auction across Europe and the United States, and is documented in Bénézit's “*Dictionnaire des peintres*” and Marchand's “*Dictionnaire des peintres français de la mer et de la marine*.”