

Basic Detail Report

**Title**

The Bathing Party

Artist

Jean-Baptiste Pater

Date

early 18th Century

Dimensions

H: 26 1/4 in. (66.8 cm); W: 32 1/4 in. (81.9 cm)

Medium

Oil on canvas.

Classifications

Paintings

Credit Line

Purchased with funds from the Libbey Endowment, Gift of Edward Drummond Libbey

Object number

1954.28

Published References

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Seidel, P., *Die Kunstsammlung Friedrichs des Grossen auf der Pariser Weltausstellung, 1900*, Berlin, 1900, no. 19.

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Foerster, C., *Das Neue Palais bei Potsdam*, Berlin, 1923, p. 61.

Ingersoll-Smouse, F., *Pater*, Paris, 1928, no. 326, fig. 102.

Phillips, Claude, *Masterpieces of French Art in the XVIII Century*, London, n. d., p. 9, no. 16.

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Art News, vol. 53, Oct. 1954, p. 40, repr. (det.).

Charmet, Raymond, "L'Art Français au Musée de Toledo," *Arts Spectacles*, no. 556, Feb. 22, 1956, p. 14.

Grigaut, Paul L., "Baroque and Rococo France in Toledo," *Art Quarterly*, vol. 19, no. 1, Spring 1956, p. 53.

"French Art 1600-1800," *Toledo Museum of Art Museum News*, vol. 3, no. 4, Autumn 1960, p. 88.

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Vogtherr, Christoph Martin, *Französische Gemälde I: Watteau, Pater, Lancret, Lajoüe*, Berlin, Akademie Verlag, 2011, p. 423.

MacDonald, Heather ed., *French Art of the Eighteenth Century: The Michael L. Rosenberg Lecture Series at the Dallas Museum of Art*, New Haven, Yale University Press, 2016, p. 92, repr. (col.) fig. 66.

Exhibition History

Berlin, *Die Ausstellung von Gemälden älterer Meister im Berliner Privatbesitz*, 1883, no. 9.

Paris, *Exposition Universelle*, 1900.

Minneapolis Institute of Arts and New York, Wildenstein, *Eighteenth Century French Painting*, 1954, no. 21.

Chicago, Art Institute, *Great French Paintings (In Memory of Chauncey McCormick)*, 1955, no. 29, repr.

Collections

Paintings

Label Text

The only student of Antoine Watteau (see Watteau's *La Conversation* in the Museum's collection), Jean-Baptiste Pater was greatly influenced by the older painter's style and subject matter. However, Pater developed one of his favorite subjects, a group of bathing women, independently of his master. This playful, sensuous image conforms to the French Rococo style of the 18th century—characterized in

painting by lush images of pleasure-seeking young people, a palette often dominated by pinks and blues and greens, and an overall sense of lightness and elegance. Look for the three young men spying on the bathing beauties.

On View

Toledo Museum of Art (2445 Monroe Street), Gallery, 27