

John William Godward

1861–1922 | English



At the Window

M.S. Rau
FINE ART • ANTIQUES • JEWELS

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Oil on canvas | Painted 1920

Signed and dated "J.W. Godward 1920" (lower right)

Canvas: 31 1/2" high x 16" wide | 80.01 cm x 40.64 cm

Frame: 42 3/4" high x 27 1/8" wide x 3 3/4" deep

108.59 cm x 68.9 cm x 9.53 cm

“

*Godward was among
the brightest stars of
the late Greco-Roman
painters during
classicism's twilight...*

- Vern Grosvenor Swanson
Godward scholar

”



A breathtaking quintessential work by John William Godward, this intriguing composition captures a classical beauty in a moment of quiet reflection as she gazes from a marble windowsill. Celebrated as one of the most important Neoclassical painters at the turn of the century, Godward's career was devoted to a segment of Classicism known as the Marble School which championed rendering Greco-Roman subjects placed amongst period architectural settings.

Though he worked throughout the late 19th century into the 1920s, Godward's elegant and ethereal compositions provided an escape from the present day and beckoned viewers to lose themselves in a bygone era of classical serenity. Godward rendered his idyllic scenes with a degree of sensuality and technical mastery that remains unsurpassed.

The present work, entitled *At the Window*, perfectly embodies Godward's oeuvre. The beautiful subject leans out from a marble aperture with a contemplative gaze. Her elegant peach-colored Grecian gown is punctuated by a deep magenta sash draping down from her waist, accentuating her graceful and sensuous form. Godward renders his idyllic subject and setting with keen detail, carefully painting the veins of various types of marble and his subject's toes peeking out from beneath the hem of her gown. This work is exemplary among Godward's oeuvre and perfectly captures the sentiment of esteemed



Godward scholar, Vern Grosvenor Swanson: “[Godward] sought to portray peace, feminine charm and ideal perfection by marvelously painted and composed classical pictures of beautiful women in halcyon marble environments.”

Raised in Wimbledon, England, Godward debuted at London's Royal Academy exhibition in 1887. By the subsequent decade, the burgeoning artist was on a steady ascent to artistic success. Having fallen under the influence of British Neoclassical Revivalists

Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, Lord Frederic Leighton, and Sir Edward John Poynter, Godward quickly adopted and rivaled their style. He envisioned similar scenes of the ancient world, seamlessly blending antiquity and beauty in breathtaking compositions. The sensuality and mystery of Godward's maidens, combined with his impressive backdrops, attracted fans across Europe. In 1889 he was elected to the Royal Society of British Artists. Ten years later, Godward debuted at the Parisian Salon of 1899, where again he was heaped with praise. In the early years of the 20th century, however, Godward was faced with the painful reality that the classical world he so loved was being overshadowed by modern art movements. He moved to Rome in 1912 to surround himself with the physical remnants of the classical world, and there he stayed for the majority of his remaining career. ●



PROVENANCE

Sale, Christie's London, Thursday, June 7, 2007, lot 00042

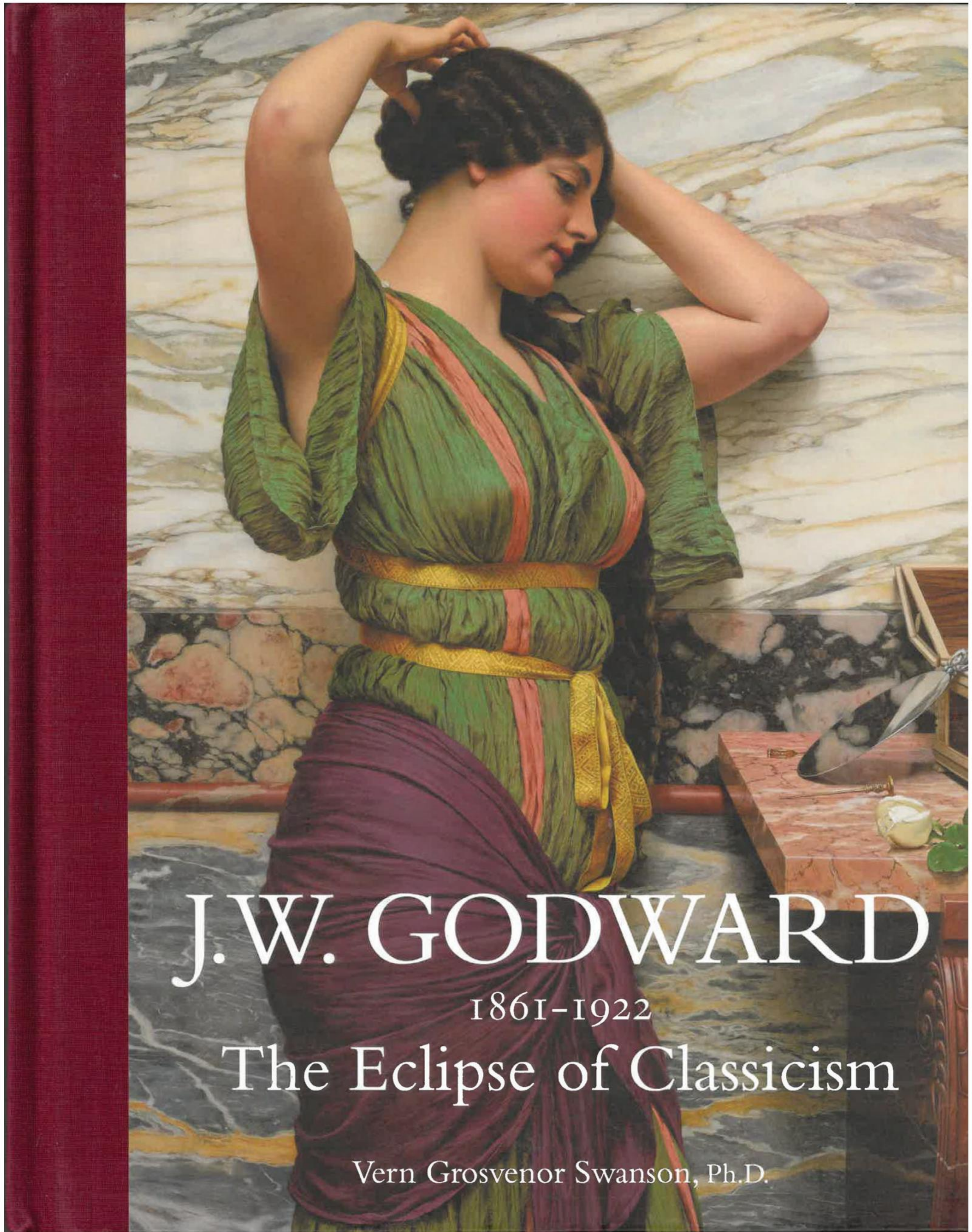
Private collection, London

M.S. Rau, New Orleans

LITERATURE

Vern Swanson, *J.W. Godward: The Eclipse of Classicism*, 2018, page 167, no. 169 (illustrated)





Vern Swanson, *J.W. Godward: The Eclipse of Classicism*, 2018, page 167, no. 169 (illustrated)



J.W. GODWARD

1861-1922

The Eclipse of Classicism

Vern Grosvenor Swanson, Ph.D.



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Vern Swanson, *J.W. Godward: The Eclipse of Classicism*, 2018, page 167, no. 169 (illustrated)








Colour Plate 169. *At the Window* 1920,
oil on canvas, 31½ x 16in. (80.3 x 40.3cm).
Courtesy Christie's Images.

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Vern Swanson, *J.W. Godward: The Eclipse of Classicism*, 2018, page 167, no. 169 (illustrated)






AUCTION COMPARABLES

	1	Godward John William
	Title	A Signal
	Description	John William Godward, R.B.A. (British, 1861-1922)A Signal signed and dated
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Size	Height 31.7 in.; Width 24 in. / Height 80.6 cm.; Width 61 cm.
	Misc.	Signed, Inscribed
	Sale of	Christie's New York: Wednesday, October 26, 2016 [Lot 00024] 19th Century European Art
	Estimate	350,000 - 450,000 USD
	Sold For	403,500 USD Premium
	2	Godward John William
	Title	Clelia
	Description	John William Godward, R.B.A. (1861-1922) Clelia signed and dated 'J.W GODWARD 1913'
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	1913
	Size	Height 20 in.; Width 16.9 in. / Height 50.8 cm.; Width 43 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Christie's London: Thursday, December 10, 2020 [Lot 00017] The Joe Setton Collection: from Pre-Raphaelites to Last Romantics
	Estimate	150,000 - 200,000 GBP (199,415 - 265,886 USD)
	Sold For	275,000 GBP Premium (365,594 USD)
	3	Godward John William
	Title	A Roman beauty
	Description	John William Godward (1858-1922)A Roman Beautysigned and dated 'J. W
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	1904
	Size	Height 24 in.; Width 20.1 in. / Height 61 cm.; Width 51 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Christie's London: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 [Lot 00167] Victorian & British Impressionist Pictures Including Drawings & Watercolours
	Estimate	150,000 - 200,000 GBP (221,572 - 295,429 USD)
	Sold For	241,250 GBP Premium (356,362 USD)






AUCTION COMPARABLES

	4	Godward John William
	Title	Study of a head in drapery, Miss Ethel Warwick
	Description	signed and dated u.r.: J. W. GODWARD. 98.oil on canvas60 by 50cm., 23½ by
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Size	Height 23.6 in.; Width 19.7 in. / Height 60 cm.; Width 50 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Sotheby's London: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 [Lot 00020] Victorian, Pre-Raphaelite & British Impressionist Art
	Estimate	100,000 - 150,000 GBP (156,152 - 234,228 USD)
	Sold For	221,000 GBP Premium (345,096 USD)
	5	Godward John William
	Title	The signal
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	1918
	Size	Height 31.8 in.; Width 24 in. / Height 80.7 cm.; Width 61 cm.
	Misc.	Signed, Inscribed
	Sale of	Christie's London: Wednesday, November 24, 2004 [Lot 00026] Important British Art incl. Property from the London Residence of the late Sir Paul Getty, K.B.E.
	Estimate	100,000 - 150,000 GBP (185,908 - 278,862 USD)
	Sold For	184,450 GBP Premium (342,907 USD)
	6	Godward John William
	Title	Pyrallis
	Description	JOHN WILLIAM GODWARD, R.B.A.1861-1922Pyrallissigned and dated u.r.:
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	1918
	Size	Height 19.7 in.; Width 15.7 in. / Height 50 cm.; Width 40 cm.
	Sale of	Sotheby's London: Thursday, July 11, 2019 [Lot 00033] Victorian, Pre-Raphaelite and British Impressionist Art
	Estimate	100,000 - 150,000 GBP (125,486 - 188,229 USD)
	Sold For	268,750 GBP (337,244 USD)





AUCTION COMPARABLES

	7	<p>Godward John William</p>
	Title	Winding wool in a Pompeian garden
	Description	John William Godward, R.B.A. (1861-1922) Winding wool in a Pompeian garden signed
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	1894
	Size	Height 32 in.; Width 15 in. / Height 81.3 cm.; Width 38.1 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Christie's London: Thursday, December 12, 2019 [Lot 00152] British Art: Victorian, Pre-Raphaelite & British Impressionist Art
	Estimate	200,000 - 300,000 GBP (262,605 - 393,907 USD)
	Sold For	250,000 GBP Premium (328,256 USD)
	8	<p>Godward John William</p>
	Title	The bouquet
	Description	signed J. W. GODWARD and dated 99 (lower left)oil on
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	1899
	Size	Height 29.8 in.; Width 19.8 in. / Height 75.7 cm.; Width 50.4 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Sotheby's New York: Thursday, November 4, 2010 [Lot 00057] 19th Century European Art
	Estimate	250,000 - 300,000 USD
	Sold For	326,500 USD Premium
	9	<p>Godward John William</p>
	Title	A Pompeian lady
	Description	signed and dated 'J.W. Godward. 1901' (upper right)oil on canvas24 x 20 in
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	1901
	Size	Height 24 in.; Width 20.1 in. / Height 61 cm.; Width 51 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Christie's London: Thursday, December 11, 2014 [Lot 00012] Victorian, Pre-Raphaelite & British Impressionist Art
	Estimate	150,000 - 250,000 GBP (235,663 - 392,772 USD)
	Sold For	194,500 GBP Premium (305,577 USD)



AUCTION COMPARABLES

	10	Godward John William
	Title	An Offering to Venus
	Description	John William Godward, R.A. (1861-1922)An Offering to Venussigned and dated
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	1912
	Size	Height 30.7 in.; Width 15.5 in. / Height 78 cm.; Width 39.4 cm.
	Misc.	Signed, Inscribed
	Sale of	Christie's London: Wednesday, July 13, 2016 [Lot 00126] Victorian, Pre-Raphaelite and British Impressionist Art
	Estimate	250,000 - 350,000 GBP (329,597 - 461,437 USD)
	Sold For	230,500 GBP Premium (303,889 USD)
	11	Godward John William
	Title	Contemplation
	Description	signed and dated l.r.: J.W. Godward 1922; inscribed with the title on the
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	1922
	Size	Height 50 in.; Width 29.9 in. / Height 127 cm.; Width 76 cm.
	Misc.	Signed, Inscribed
	Sale of	Sotheby's London: Thursday, May 22, 2014 [Lot 00219] British & Irish Art
	Estimate	150,000 - 200,000 GBP (252,823 - 337,097 USD)
	Sold For	176,500 GBP Premium (297,488 USD)



John William Godward | *Reverie*

1904

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 23 x 29 inches | 58.4 cm x 73.7 cm



Getty

Getty Museum
Los Angeles, CA, United States



John William Godward | *The Signal*

1899

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 26 x 18^{1/4} inches | 66 cm x 46.4 cm



Getty

Getty Museum
Los Angeles, CA, United States



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