



William Brymner, *Girl with a Dog, Lower Saint Lawrence*, 1905, oil on canvas, 48.5 x 60.5 cm, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

William Brymner (1855–1925) was a prominent Canadian painter and art teacher who taught at the Art Association of Montreal for thirty-five years. During his artistic training in Paris, he became strongly influenced by the French Barbizon school of artists who painted directly from nature. *Girl with a Dog, Lower Saint Lawrence* depicts a young girl wearing a straw hat, a pink pinafore dress and a white long-sleeve shirt underneath; she is sitting in a large, grassless field and holding a long wooden stick, which appears to be keeping her dark-furred dog in line. In the left background a ship is sailing down the Saint Lawrence River, while the edge of a forest

occupies the right background. The vastness of the natural landscape and the presence of the ship allude to mercantile activity and Canada's relationship to Europe as an entry port for the New World. A harmonious connection between the girl and her surroundings is suggested by the similar neutral colour palette and broad brushstrokes in which they are rendered. The pastels of the figure's clothing evoke the innocence of childhood, a concept which began to take momentum in the eighteenth century.

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