

Eugen von Blaas



1843-1932 | ITALIAN

No love without envy

M.S. Rau
FINE ART • ANTIQUES • JEWELS



Eugen von Blaas captured the vibrant spirit of Venice in paint, and *No Love Without Envy* stands as one of his masterpieces. Larger and more finely detailed than most of his paintings, this stunning composition reflects von Blaas’ mastery of light, color and storytelling. This grand work is believed to feature a stylized self-portrait with his wife, Paola Prina, it is personal, grand and iconic.

Set in a sunlit Venetian courtyard, the scene features an orange seller, Prina, engaged with her admirer—the artist himself—while three women look on with a mix of amusement and envy. Painted with captivating realism and luminosity, the youthful beauty of the figures contrasts strikingly with the stonework of old Venice. Perfectly smooth brushwork brings the Burano lace and intricate fabrics of the women’s dresses to life, while soft tones delicately render the flesh with near-photographic precision. With its meticulous detail and vibrancy, this work stands out in von Blaas’ oeuvre as a masterful depiction of a timeless tale of emotion, set within the nostalgic charm of a Venice untouched by the Industrial Revolution.

Born in Italy to Austrian parents in 1843, Eugen von Blaas grew up immersed in art. His father, Karl Blaas, was a renowned portrait and history painter, while his brother excelled in military scenes. The family moved to Venice when Karl became a professor at the Venice Academy of Fine Art, where von Blaas began crafting his iconic Venetian scenes, portraits and religious works for the city’s elite. During the Austrian rule of Venice, von Blaas adopted the Italianized pseudonym “Eugene de Blaas” for his local clientele, reserving “von Blaas” for Austrian patrons. His work gained international acclaim during his lifetime, with exhibitions at the Royal Academy, Grafton Gallery and New Gallery from 1875 to 1892.

Despite studies in Rome, Vienna and Paris, and travels across Europe, Venice remained his greatest inspiration. Known for charming, flirtatious subjects and meticulous technique, von Blaas became the leading painter of Venetian genre scenes. His work has long been sought after by collectors and institutions around the world.





Eugen von Blaas

1843-1932 | Italian

No love without envy, 1901

Signed and dated "Eugen von Blaas 1901" (lower right)
Oil on canvas

Canvas: 39 ³/₄" high x 47 ³/₄" wide | 100.97 x 121.29 cm
Frame: 48 ³/₈" high x 56 ¹/₄" wide x 3" deep | 122.75 x 142.88 x 7.62 cm

Katharina Seyffertitz-Blaas has confirmed that this is an autograph work by Eugen von Blaas.

PROVENANCE

Rayner MacConnal, London

Private Collection, United Kingdom, acquired from above in 1952

Thence by descent

M.S. Rau, New Orleans



AUCTION COMPARABLES



Eugen von Blaas
Catch of the day

oil on canvas
Height 99.1 x Width 129.4 cm.
Height 39.016 x Width 50.945 in.
1898

25 October 2005 *over 19 years ago*
Sotheby's New York
19th Century European Art – [Lot 00039]

est. 500,000 - 700,000 USD **1,080,000 USD** [Ⓟ]
↑ 54% est



Eugen von Blaas
The friendly gossips

oil on canvas
Height 97.8 x Width 121.9 cm.
Height 38.504 x Width 47.992 in.
1901

25 April 2006 *almost 19 years ago*
Sotheby's New York
19th Century European Art including Sporting Paintings – [Lot 00123]

est. 500,000 - 700,000 USD **822,400 USD** [Ⓟ]
↑ 17% est



Eugen von Blaas
The Venetian flower vendor

oil on canvas
Height 99.1 x Width 129.5 cm.
Height 39.016 x Width 50.984 in.
1901

02 November 1999 *about 25 years ago*
Sotheby's New York
The Haussner's Restaurant Collection: 19th Century European and American Paintings – [Lot 00088]

est. 300,000 - 400,000 USD **805,500 USD** [Ⓟ]
↑ 101% est



Eugen von Blaas
Die Plauderei

oil on canvas
Height 90 x Width 118 cm.
Height 35.433 x Width 46.457 in.
1905

31 May 2007 *over 17 years ago*
Dorotheum
Gemälde des 19. Jahrhunderts – [Lot 00174]

est. 250,000 - 350,000 EUR **570,000 EUR** [Ⓟ]
est. 337,063 - 471,888 USD **768,504 USD** [Ⓟ]
↑ 63% est



Eugen von Blaas
Conversation on the terrace, Venice

oil on canvas
Height 90.5 x Width 104.5 cm.
Height 35.63 x Width 41.142 in.
1909

30 May 2008 *over 16 years ago*
Sotheby's London
European Paintings including German, Austrian & Central European Paintings and The Orientalist Sale – [Lot 00304]

est. 150,000 - 200,000 GBP **378,900 GBP** [Ⓟ]
est. 296,150 - 394,866 USD **748,075 USD** [Ⓟ]
↑ 89% est



Eugen von Blaas | *A Venetian Courtship*

1891

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 42 x 26 inches | 107 x 66.3 cm

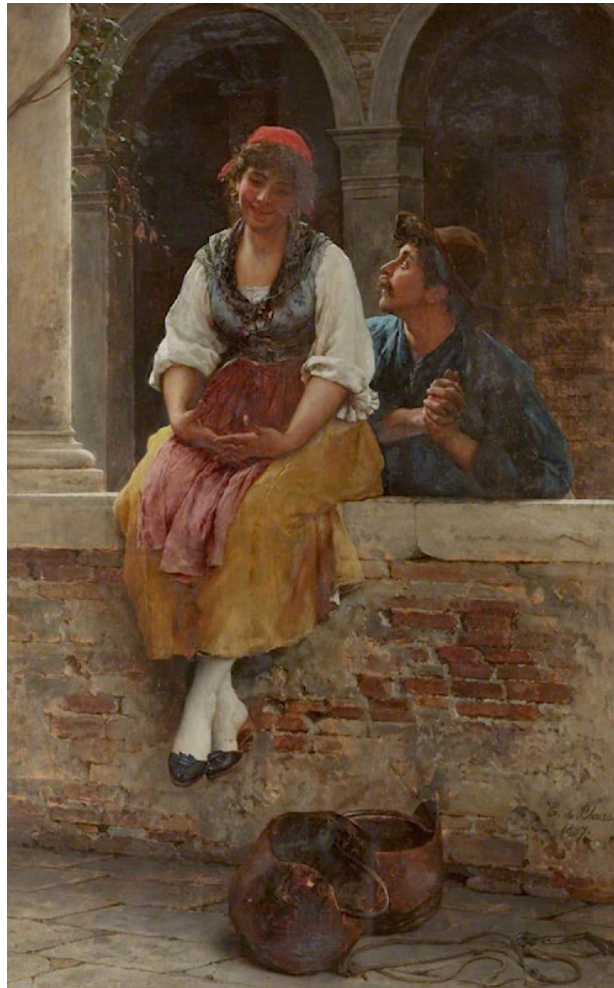


Eugen von Blaas | *The Offer*

1887

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 36^{1/2} x 24 inches | 93.3 x 61.4 cm



Nottingham
City Council

Nottingham City Museum
Nottingham, England



Eugen von Blaas | *A Venetian Water Carrier*

1890

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 46^{3/4} x 25 inches | 119 x 64 cm



Russell-Cotes Art Museum
Bournemouth, England



Eugen von Blaas | *Dressing for the Masquerade*

1860-85

Medium: Oil on panel

Dimensions: 27¹/₄ x 42 inches | 69.8 x 106.8 cm



Sheffield City Art Gallery
Sheffield, England



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