

# Champaigne

Philippe de Champaigne 1602 -1674

1602 - Born son of a poor tailor in Brussels. Was nevertheless well educated and taught Latin as a child. Showing early leanings to painting he is apprenticed to Jean Bouillon, later Michel Bourdeaux and finally to the celebrated landscape painter Fouquierès. 1621 - Refuses to join the great Rubens studio. Leaves Low Countries for Italy. Stops in Paris on the way and goes no further. He meets two prominent Mannerist painters who will help him begin a career in Paris: Georges Lallemant and Nicolas Duchesne. 1623 - Lives with Nicolas Poussin at the collège de Laon. He will retain cordial relations with him in the future. 1625 - Established as independent master in Paris. 1627 - Returns briefly to Brussels. 1628 - Recalled to Paris by Claude Maugis superintendent of the King's Buildings (surintendant des batiments) and named peintre ordinaire to the Queen Mother, Marie de Medici and valet de chambre to King Louis XIII with lodgings at the Palais de Luxembourg. Paints several ceilings in the palace which is the residence of Marie. Marries Duchene's daughter. 1629 - Naturalized French. Multiplication of church commissions. 1635 - Beginning of his close relationship with Cardinal Richelieu, the Prime Minister. Only painter authorized to paint the Cardinal in his official robes (11 times). Paints the galerie des homes illustres at the Cardinal's new residence the Palais Cardinal (current Palais Royal) along with Simon Vouet. 1638 - Paints the Vow of Louis XIII for Notre Dame in Paris. Named first painter to the Queen Anne of Austria with an annual pension of 1200 livres. 1642 - Death of Cardinal Richelieu his greatest patron. 1643 - Death of Louis XIII. Champaigne is introduced to Jansenist circles in Paris. 1648 - Participates in founding of Royal Academy of painting along with Charles Le Brun. His daughters enter the Port-Royal convent center of the Jansenist faith, where Francoise will die in 1655. 1654 - Suffers from the rise of Charles Le Brun, the new esteemed and increasingly powerful painter for the Crown and the indifference of the new Prime Minister, Cardinal Mazarin. Continues however to work for Anne of Austria and paints her private apartments at the convent of the Val de Grace in Paris. Works under Le Brun at the Tuileries palace. His clientele will increasingly be found in the noblesse de robe, the great Paris magistrates, government administrators, municipal councilors, secretaries and the like. He is also employed by the Paris parishes (St-Séverin, St-Honoré, St-Gervais) and religious orders (Oratorians, even Jesuits) and the Carthusians of Port-Royal. He paints the portrait of the celebrated abbess Angelique Arnauld. 1655 - Named professor at the academy. 1657 - His daughter Catherine becomes a nun at Port-Royal convent. Paints major commission for church of St Gervais-St Protais in the Marais. 1659 - Decorates King's apartment at Vincennes with his principal assistant his nephew Jean-Baptiste. 1662 - After Catherine is cured of a mysterious paralysis, her father paints his famous Ex Voto for the Port Royal convent. 1665 - Despite his defense of Jansenism a faith much disapproved of in royal circles he receives important royal commissions from Louis XIV, notably the Reception of the Duc d'Anjou (the King's grandson) into the Order of the Holy Spirit. 1666 - Paints the Dauphin's apartment at the Tuileries palace. 1668 - Several of his lectures given at the academy are published by Felibien pointing to his increasing teaching activities in old age. Comments on Virgin with White Rabbit by Titian participating in the growing debate between the partisans of color and those of drawing, preaching moderation. 1674 - Dies 9 years after Poussin. His old friends the nuns of Port-Royal call him a 'good painter and a good Christian' in their obituary.