



# ANGELICA KAUFFMAN

1741-1807

Emma Welborn

# Early Childhood

- Better education than most girls
  - *Spoke English, French, German, and Italian*
- Great musical talent
  - *Opera singer*
  - *Chose art over opera, decision reappears in later paintings*
- Artist dad, noble mom
  - *Dad was instrumental in her training*
  - *Completed a portrait of the bishop of Como by age 11 and a fresco in early teens*
  - *By age 20 was sole breadwinner of the family*
  - *By 21 she was an honorary member of the Accademia Clementina di Bologna and given a diploma from the Accademia del Disegno in Florence*



Angelica Kauffman, Portrait of Consul Isaac Jamineau, 1763, Kunstbesitz der Landeshauptstadt Bregenz



Angelica Kauffman, Penelope Mourning over Odysseus's Bow, 1775-1778, Private Collection, Switzerland



Angelica Kauffman, A Nymph and a Young Man, 1780, Victoria and Albert Museum, London

# Career

- Becomes friends with all the important people – develops reputation as a fashionable painter
  - *Great demand for portraits, painted life size portrait of King's sister*
  - *Invited to Dublin to paint portrait of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland*
  - *Had long list of noble patrons*
  - *Works were inspired by the Renaissance*
- At age 27 she was one of the 37 founding members of the Royal Academy of Arts
  - *Only 2 total women were selected*

Angelica Kauffman, Study for the Portrait of Sir Joshua Reynolds, 1766, Private Collection



# Influence

- Famous and well-respected by a young age, her influence was widespread
  - *Popular male artist Nathaniel Hone painted satirical image of her close friend, Joshua Reynolds which had a nude woman in the background which was believed to be mocking of her (Kauffman). She complained to the academy and it was taken down and painted over.*
- Commissioned for ceiling paintings of St. Paul's Cathedral and the council chamber of the academy
- Had a very scandalous marriage, did no harm to her name
- Second marriage she kept control of her wealth (modern day prenup)
- Rare for a woman of such fame to be untainted by scandals and to have so much control over society and the world of artists
- Has sent self portraits to royal collections, as well as the Medici family collection at the Uffizi gallery in Florence
- Grand funeral designed by famous Italian sculptor, hundreds in attendance and dressed in costume



# Self-Portraits



Angelica Kauffman, Self-Portrait,  
1753, Tiroler Landesmuseum, Austria.



Angelica Kauffman, Self-Portrait, 1800, Private  
Collection.

# Bibliography

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