



# William Etty

**Painter**

**Born:** 10 March 1787

**Died:** 13 November 1849

## ARTY FACT!

William Etty set up the York School of Art in 1842.

### William Etty's life

William Etty was born in York. When he was 12 he went to work for a printer in Hull. At 18 he moved to London to study art at the Royal Academy.

William worked hard and was determined to become an artist. The artists at the Royal Academy were very impressed by his use of colour, especially the way he painted flesh tones, but it was many years before he began to sell his work regularly.

William was in his 30s when he began to achieve some success. Although many people praised his talent, others did not like the fact that he often included nude people in his pictures. Soon the newspapers began to print both sides of the argument and William Etty became well known. But he still didn't sell much of his work. He sometimes painted portraits, which helped him to earn more money.

### What makes William Etty special?

The Royal Academy of Art is run by artists, known as the Royal Academicians. There were 40 Royal Academicians, and when one of them retired or died those remaining would elect a new member. In 1828 William Etty became a Royal Academician having won more votes than John Constable.

In the 1840s, William turned to painting still life and landscapes. He finally sold enough work to pay off his debts.

William Etty worked hard all his life to perfect his art. He carried on going to life drawing classes at the Royal Academy even after he was made a Royal Academician and people thought he shouldn't.

### WHAT CAN YOU SEE?

Can you find a painting by William Etty?

Is it a portrait or does it tell a story?

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Experiment with mixing different colours of paint.

How many different colours can you make?

Can you mix different flesh tones?