



### **A Young Girl Defending Herself from Eros**

This painting is the work of a French painter named William Bouguereau. He was well known for his realistic paintings that often featured mythical themes. Bouguereau was born in 1825 to a family of merchants that specialized in wine and olives. It was thought that he was going to join the family business, until his uncle intervened. Bouguereau's uncle gave him the opportunity to attend school, and educated him in classical studies. From an early age he showed extreme artistic talents and was fortunate enough to attend some of the most prestigious art school's that France has to offer.

This painting is a depiction of a young woman, and a cherub. The woman is naked with her arms outstretched, in an effort to keep the cherub in front of her at bay. Her facial expression is blank. At face value the girl fighting the cherub is simply a rejection of love, however, the implied messages in this painting are much more complex. The girl is naked; this represents the sexual aspect of love and romance. The girl's facial expression seems neither jovial nor terrified, complete indifference is all over her face. We can only assume from this painting that the girl is undecided, she has her reasons for rejecting love, but at the same time, she questions their validity. This concept is one which has haunted me for years as I can never figure out my own disposition on love.