



**Les Derniers Jours d'Enfance (The Last Stages of Infancy)**

1883–1885, oil, 46 x 54.  
Collection Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This painting, which was accepted into the 1887 Paris Salon, is said to have launched Beaux's career.

arresting portrayals of this relationship in the history of portraiture. Whether exploring these themes or others, Beaux was known for capturing the inner life and spirit of her subjects and was said to be equal in talent and sensitivity to her Grand Manner contemporary John Singer Sargent.

Toward the end of her life, Beaux's subject matter focused

on women who had made lasting contributions to culture, such as suffragists, educators, and high-society intelligentsia. She continued to gain the respect and admiration of critics and colleagues, and the numerous honors and awards bestowed upon her further solidified her standing. In 1924 the Uffizi Gallery, in Florence, asked her to submit a self-portrait, an invitation only given to three other Americans: William Merritt Chase, Frank Duveneck, and John Singer Sargent. These accolades, along with her skill, dedication, and focus, have earned Beaux a legacy as one of the most celebrated artists of all time. —A.M.

# CECILIA BEAUX

(1855–1942)

**Cecilia Beaux's legacy as a painter** includes not only her accomplishments as one of the most successful society portraitists but also the strides she made as a woman in a male-dominated field. Beaux competed for commissions with many of the day's greatest painters and rose to a stature and level of respect atypical of a woman of her time. She was the first full-time female instructor at the Pennsylvania

Academy of the Fine Arts, a member of the Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts, and an exhibiting artist in the famous Paris salon of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Beaux opted not to assume the conventional roles of wife and mother and instead remained single and wholeheartedly devoted to painting throughout her life. She was, however, deeply moved by the idea of mother and child and created some of the most