



# Francisco Oller

## *Art of Puerto Rico*

Rebecca Hinson

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In loving memory of my father, Lura Abijah Hinson, Jr.

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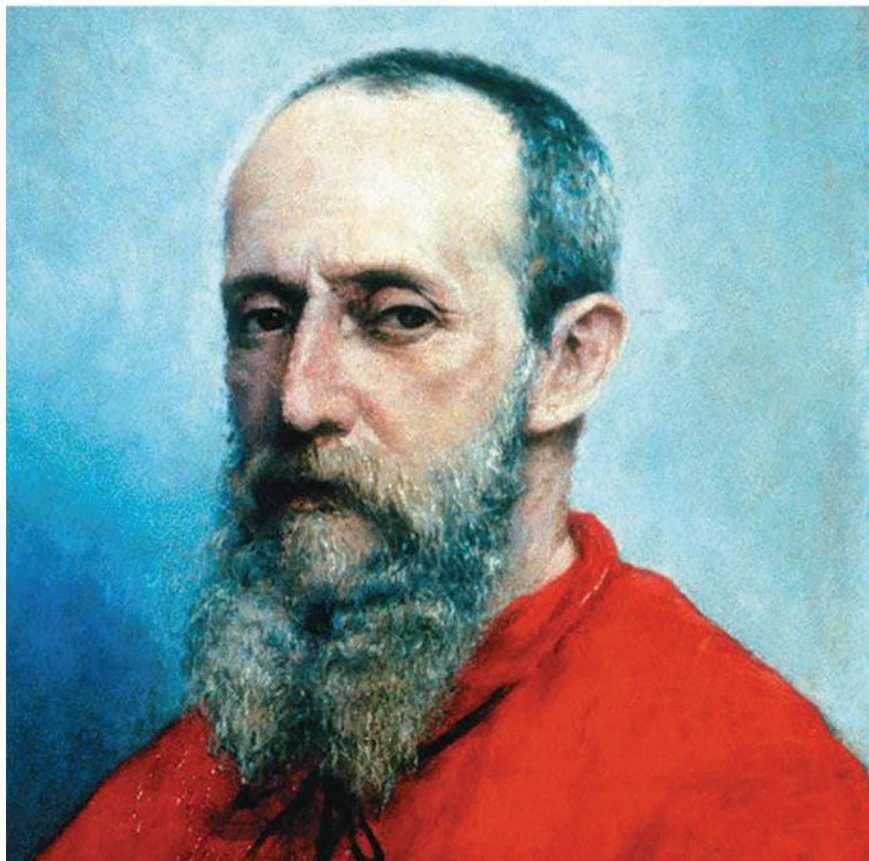
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**ARTISTS** Cover, 2, 8-24, Francisco Oller; 3, Federico de Madrazo;  
4, Diego Velázquez; 5, Thomas Couture; 6, Édouard Manet; 7, Gustave Courbet.



**Francisco Oller was born in Puerto Rico in 1833. He helped define a national Puerto Rican identity by painting the land, the fruits of the soil, and the people.**



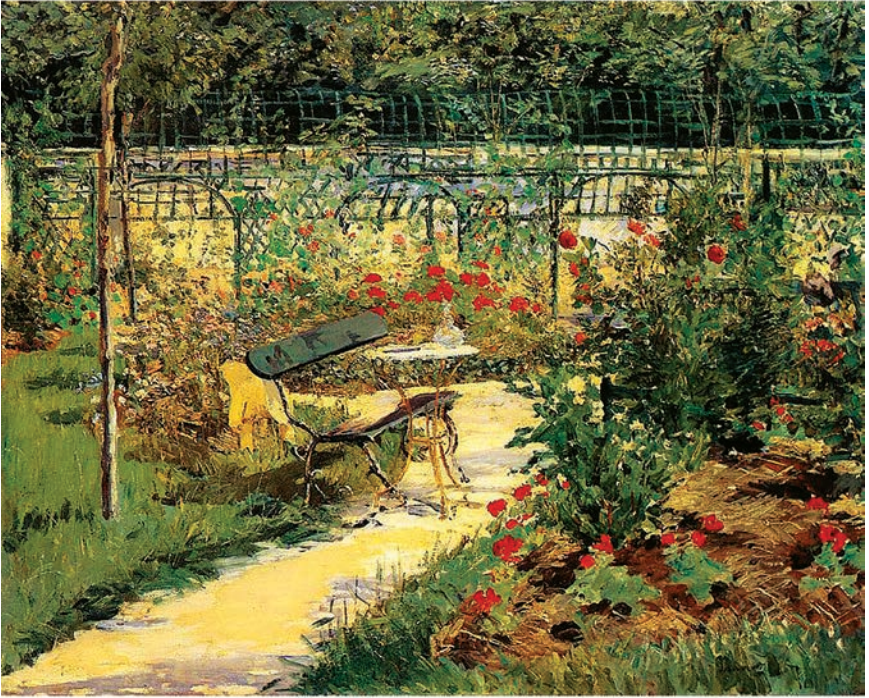
At 18 years of age, Oller traveled to Spain, where he was influenced by the work of his teacher, Federico de Madrazo, who painted meticulous delicate portraits.



Oller revered the paintings of the great Spanish artist Diego Velázquez, who created luminous portraits with the appearance of reality.



Oller studied in France, where he was influenced by the work of his teacher, Thomas Couture, who painted events from everyday life and scenes from history.

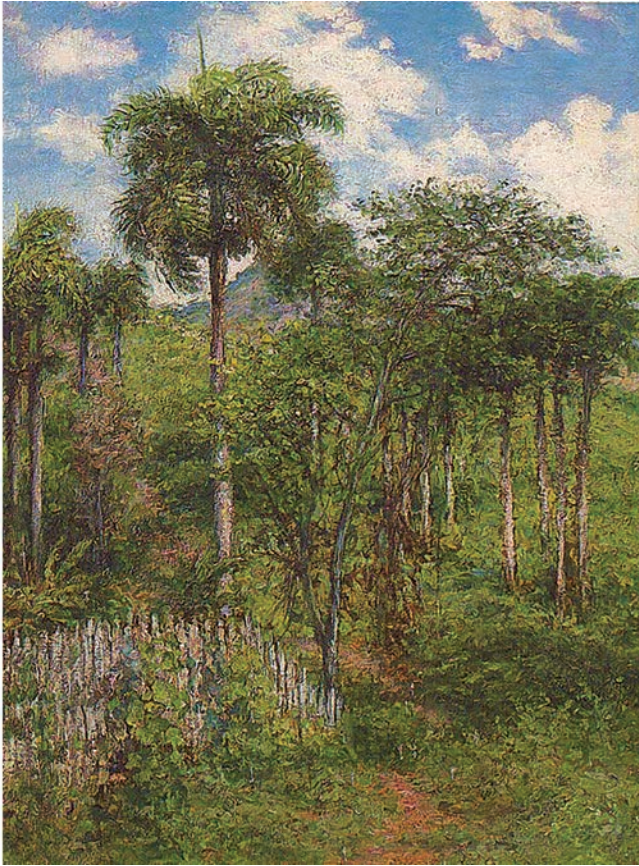


In France, Oller was also influenced by the paintings of Couture's student, Édouard Manet, whose compositions were often based on quick sketches of his observations.



Later at the Louvre, Oller studied with Gustave Courbet, who depicted ordinary places and people.





When he returned home, Oller applied what he had learned in Europe, as he painted his beloved island home, Puerto Rico.



Oller painted the mountains.



Oller painted the valleys and the plains.



**Oller painted the Portugués River in Ponce and the centuries-old silk-cotton tree, which the Tainos believed was sacred.**



Oller painted plantains.