



The Lady and the Unicorn (French: *La Dame à la licorne*) is the modern title given to a series of six tapestries woven in Flanders from wool and silk, from designs ("cartoons") drawn in Paris around 1500. The set, on display in the Musée national du Moyen Âge (former Musée de Cluny) in Paris, is often considered one of the greatest works of art of the Middle Ages in Europe.

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Fresco



MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK

Louise Brann was an American painter who worked in the Federal Art Project during the New Deal. She created large public art installations and was a prolific portrait painter in Westchester County working between 1932 and 1980.

Louise Brann was born August 18, 1906, in Mount Vernon, New York, and attended Jefferson School and Davis High School. She studied art at the Art Students League in New York City and Cooper Union. At Cooper Union, she received a traveling scholarship to Europe for three years where she studied at Fontainebleau and created several frescoes in Paris and Montereau. After returning to the United States, she produced several large public art projects, most notably the fresco mural at the Mount Vernon Library in Mount Vernon, NY based on a Goebelin tapestry, *The Lady and the Unicorn*.

The four panels were commissioned by the Federal Art Project and created between 1937 and 1938. The Mount Vernon Public Library fresco was one of the largest ever undertaken by the Federal Art Project. It circles an entire room that is 30 feet by 34 feet. The fresco covers 1080 square feet of wall. It required 16 months to complete, with the artist completing about one square foot per day. The work was completed in time for a grand opening of a new library addition during October, 1938. The fresco is divided into four main sections, reflecting education, occupation, diversion, and recreation. The artist drew inspiration from the *Lady and the Unicorn* tapestries in the Cluny Museum in Paris and from other fifteenth century tapestries.



In 1966, with financial backing from the New York State Council on the Arts and others, the artist completed a restoration of the project, including replacing some damaged mortar and rejuvenating some of the paint, especially the reds.

Louise Brann painted four additional murals in Mount Vernon, New York:

1934 - Four mural panels, each 14'6" x 7'8", in the auditorium of Nichols Junior High School.

1940 - "Vocal Music" mural, 18' high x 4' wide, honoring Theodore Von Yorx in Wood Auditorium.

1940 - Two murals in the Entrance Hall of Davis High School,

1948 - "Palmer" mural, 18' high by 4' wide, honoring Jasper T. Palmer, in Wood Auditorium.

