

Arthur Burdett Frost

Artist (1851 – 1928)

Frost is considered one of the great illustrators in the “Golden Age of American Illustration”. He illustrated over 90 books, and produced hundreds of paintings; in addition to his work in illustrations, he is renowned for realistic hunting and shooting prints.

Frost was born in Philadelphia, the eldest of ten children; his father was a literature professor. He became a lithographer, and in 1874 he was asked by a friend to illustrate a book of humorous short stories, which was a commercial success, selling more than a million copies.

In 1876, Frost joined the art department at the publisher Harper & Brothers, where he worked with such well-known illustrators as HOWARD PYLE, E. W. Kemble, Frederic Remington, and C. S. REINHART. While there, he learned a wide variety of techniques, from cartooning to what later came to be called photorealistic painting. Frost’s color blindness may have helped his excellent use of grayscale. After studying in London, he returned to Philadelphia and studied under painters Thomas Eakins and William Merritt Chase at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

Soon after returning, he published several stories using sequential drawings with captions, pioneering the form that would later develop into comic strips and comic books. In 1884, Frost published *Stuff and Nonsense*, an anthology of his works that advanced the concept of time-stop drawings and contained other innovations.

From 1906 until May 1914, Frost and his family lived in France, attracted by the Impressionist movement. He died on June 22, 1928.

