

## Edwin Landseer: biography

Sir Edwin (Henry) Landseer was an English painter. He was born in London in 1802 and died in 1873. His father John was an artist so he was able to recognize the talent of his son quite early. So Edwin began to study as a child at the Royal Academy exhibiting his first works at the age of 13!

He was mainly known for his paintings of animals, his favourite subjects were dogs, monkeys, horses and deer. He is also famous for lion sculptures in Trafalgar square (a very important place in London). But he wasn't a proper sculptor so he was helped by the Italian artist Carlo Marochetti.

He was so well known for his paintings that a canine race took its name from him. The Landseer in fact is a special kind of **Newfoundland (Terranova)**.

He also worked many times for the Royal family (they traditionally love animals). A recurring subject was the greyhound (*levriero*) Eos. He was the dog of Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband. Once she asked for a portrait of the dog for his birthday; in this painting there are precious personal effects of Prince Albert surrounding the dog (a top hat and his gloves); and behind him there is a red backdrop that highlights his royal posture.

In 1824 Edwin Landseer took his first trip in Scotland. He was so astonished by its typical landscape, the Highlands, that he decided to paint it many times.