

Winner

Lorena Parker Matejowsky

(Orlando, FL)

Come down from the canvas, Gibson Girl

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A gossamer Galveston debutante in
spun silk gown and beads of sweat
before some Bishop's Palace party.

Sargent made your skin like sea glass to
cross the big bridge from the mainland with me.

Stop at the new Seawall.

Lift your long summer skirt.

Ditch the Sunday chaperones and
young men mustached too soon.

Get your ghost gown wet.

Dance with your great granddaughters
shedding Gunne Sax prom gowns in the sand.

They have built you a bonfire on East Beach.

Watch them pull off panty hose and

Unlace your black boots.

They will show you how to push your delicate hands
deep in the ocean's edge and

pull periwinkles up to die in a Gulf Coast gumbo.

Come, part your pretty pursed lips and
taste time on your tongue.

Look at this portrait of your great grandmother, girls.

She also smells saltwater in her sleep.



John Singer Sargent

*Mrs. Joshua Montgomery
Sears (Sarah Choate Sears)*

1899

Oil on canvas, the MFAH, gift of
George R. Brown in honor of his wife,
Alice Pratt Brown, 80.144.