

Bigamy—the act of entering into a marriage while already legally married to another person—has been a recurring theme in art and literature for centuries. Artists and writers have used the subject to explore themes of deception, morality, identity, and social expectations, often drawing on both real-life cases and fictional narratives. Historically, bigamy has appeared in visual and literary works inspired by actual events. During the nineteenth century, newspaper reports of sensational bigamy trials captured public attention, and artists often illustrated these stories for magazines and books. Such



depictions emphasized the emotional consequences of divided families, betrayal, and legal punishment. These works reflected society's concern with marriage as a cornerstone of social order.

Fictional representations of bigamy are even more prominent. One of the best-known

examples is the novel by . In the story, Mr. Rochester's secret marriage to Bertha Mason creates a dramatic conflict that challenges Victorian ideas about love, duty, and honesty. Another notable example is by , which explores complicated marital relationships and the social consequences of concealed past actions.



In theatre and comedy, bigamy has often been treated humorously. Plays and films have used mistaken identities, secret spouses, and double lives to create tension and entertainment. Such stories reveal how artistic portrayals of bigamy can range from tragic to comic depending on the creator's purpose.

Contemporary artists continue to examine bigamy and related marital issues through photography, film, and mixed-media works. Rather than focusing solely on legal wrongdoing, they often explore broader questions about commitment, cultural traditions, and personal freedom.



Through both factual and fictional examples, art demonstrates how bigamy serves as a powerful subject for examining human relationships, social values, and the complexities of marriage.