

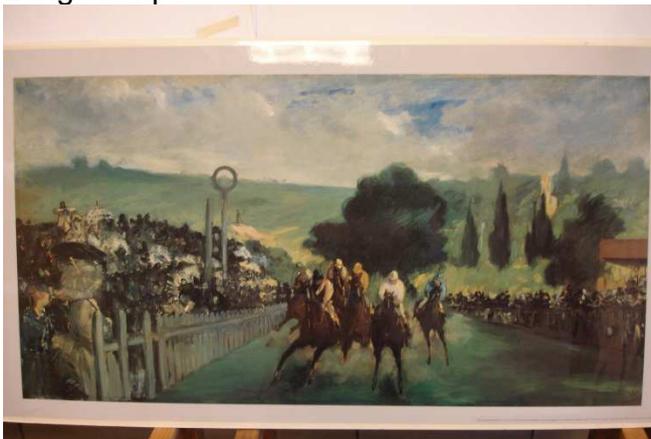
Pierre Auguste Renoir "Two Sisters"



#### Artwork Overview:

Renoir's painting "Two Sisters" has always been known as "On the Terrace"; however recent research has proven that it was sent to the seventh Impressionist exhibition, in 1882 as "Two Sisters". Renoir exhibited this painting in commercial galleries and the Salons. After five years absence from the Impressionist he returned with twenty-seven paintings. This painting was among these works. The painting is fascinating technically in Renoir's almost full-sized figures, in front of a landscape that shimmers with life. They are solid forms that occupy the limited space of a terrace. The landscape, however is a realm of pure vision and fantasy like a stage flat in one of Degas ballet paintings. It seems as if the figures are frozen in time. They are still yet seem as if they may move at any moment. The elements of dress are also remnants of a time past.

Edouard Manet "The Races at Longchamps"



The racetrack at Longchamps opened in 1857 and was a popular seasonal event for upper-class Parisians like Manet and Degas. The opening of the spring racing season was a highlight for the Parisian social elite. It engaged the entire fashion industry, because one went to the races, as to the theater, to see and be seen.

Between 1864 and 1872 Manet created several oils and watercolors, and a lithograph of the races at Longchamps. "The Races at Longchamps" is like a stop action photographer: he catches the "photo-finish". Manet captures the stunning drama of the races as the horses gallop past the finishing post, past the viewer. The geometry of the finishing post, cut by the distant horizon emphasizes the great speed of the horses. This is a "moment frozen in time."

Questions for Discussion:

1. Describe the two scenes. Describe what is taking place and any differences that you can see in these two paintings.
2. How Renoir create a sense of calm in "Two Sisters" and compare this to the excitement captured by Manet in "The Races at Longchamps".
3. How would the scenes look different if they were capture before or after the time depicted?
4. Where do you think the artist was when painting the picture - standing or sitting, outside or in the studio?
5. How did Monet create a sense a movement in his painting?
6. How did Renoir create a sense of calm in his painting?

Hands- on Art Activity: Paint a Moment Frozen in Time

Materials: 12 x 18 Sax Tempera/acrylic paper  
Tempera paints (one set)  
Tempera/acrylic brushes (small to medium)  
Large Styrofoam plate  
Water tubs  
Newspapers  
Paper towels  
Smocks (some kids may want them)  
Pencil (kids supply)

Directions:

1. Discuss with students what a "moment frozen in time" means. Think of how Renoir and Manet have frozen motion, similar to the way a camera can catch a moment of action. Can you think of an activity that you remember and would like to paint as if it were "frozen in time"?
2. Draw with pencil the shapes in your frozen picture. Think about were you are during the "frozen moment". Are you a spectator in the sidelines, or in the middle of the action?
3. Carefully choose the colors you will use in your painting. Remember bright colors appear to come forward while dark colors recede. Paint the figures and then the background. The "where" of this painting is important, and so is the subject "frozen in time".
4. Sign the painting in front.

### **Pierre Auguste Renoir (1841-1919)**

Pierre Auguste Renoir was a French impressionist painter. He is famous for paintings of young girls and children, and intimate portraits of French middle-class life at during the 19th century. He painted lively groups in outdoor, colorful surroundings, and often used his friends as models. He frequently painted his wife and children.

Renoir was born in Limoges, France. At the age of 13 he was hired as an apprentice at the porcelain factory. Later, he also painted window shades and fans in Paris. But it is for his great masterpieces of impressionist painting that he is remembered today. In Paris, Renoir studied at the same studio as Claude Monet, Alfred Sisley, and Frederic Bazille. Together, these four friends traveled the French countryside, painting outdoor scenes in the style that came to be called "Impressionism".

In 1874 Renoir and several other artists exhibited some of their works at a public auction. But the paintings were ridiculed and savaged by critics and the public. One early supporter of the Impressionists, the art dealer Paul Durand-Ruel, remarked: "The public saw these great artists but ignorant and presumptuous men trying to attract attention by their eccentricities."

Renoir continued to paint in the impressionist style. Soon he sold a few of his works and began to acquire a reputation as a talented portrait artist. Unlike Monet and Pissarro, who painted mostly landscapes, Renoir preferred to paint figures. He often used his friends as models, capturing them in moments of relaxed conversation or at festive occasions. He usually painted outdoors in natural light and used bright, pure colors. In his later years Renoir was crippled by severe arthritis. But he tied paintbrushes to his hands and continued to paint until his death in 1919.

### **Edouard Manet (1832-1883)**

Edouard Manet was a French painter who broke tradition by using his subject matter in unexpected ways. Manet's subjects often combined elements of traditional art with themes of the life of his time. He painted in a bold and simplified manner with an emphasis on the visual effect. Since Manet's time painting has been dominated by the importance of the painting itself, rather than the paintings storytelling power. He has often been called the first truly "modern" artist. Early in his career he was unpopular and reviled by critics and the public.

Manet was born to a wealthy and aristocratic family in Paris in 1832. His father wanted him to become a lawyer, but Edouard soon discovered a love for drawing and decided to become a painter. The choice outraged his family, to appease his father Edouard attempted to join the French navy. But he failed his half-hearted attempt at the entrance exam. Finally, with his father's blessing, he went to study at he studio of the famed French painter Thomas Couture. But Manet and Couture had a very different ideas about art, and after six frustrating years Manet left to open his own studio.

Manet began painting at a time of great upheaval in European life. After years of social and industrial revolution, life in France had changed and would never again be the same. The basic theme of Manet's work - the glorification of modern life through the day-to-day activities of the middle classes- had already been explored by many writers and philosophers of the time.

Manet did not consider himself a true Impressionist painter, and he often refused to exhibit his works alongside those of artists such as Monet, Pissarro, and Renior. But his work helped pave the way for Impressionism and changed forever the way artists and the public thought about painting.