



Mary Cassatt, *Little Girl in a Blue Armchair* (1878) Oil on canvas, 89.5 x 129.8 cm

WEEK TWO

SAINT BART'S ART CONVERSATIONS

REMINDERS

One | Optional Zoom class session. If interested email: rachel@art-saoirse.co

Two | Snag the weekly content each Monday at: <http://www.stbartschurch.org/art/>

Three | Email your answers to the prompt by each Friday night at: rachel@art-saoirse.co

Four | Helpful Resources to brush up on some art lingo:

- A.** <https://www.theartstory.org/>
- B.** <https://artclasscurator.com/principles-of-design-examples/>
- C.** <https://artclasscurator.com/elements-of-art-examples/>

THEME TWO:
THE ESSENTIAL IS TO FEEL SOMETHING
BEAUTIFUL



Top: Claude Monet, *The Water Lilies: Morning* (1915-1926) H. 200 cm x W. 1275 cm
Bottom: *The Water Lilies: Green Reflections* (1915-1926) H. 200 cm x W. 850 cm

THE IMPRESSIONISTS

- The movement began in Paris, France in 1872 until 1892.
- Impressionism was shocking to contemporary viewers—mostly for all the wrong reasons. Viewers thought the work to be that of a “crazy” person!
- Impressionism is considered to be “the first distinctly modern movement in painting.” The work captured modern life, but the artists all had their own goals, ideas & messages to show in their work.
- This was a group of painters who opposed the rules, styles & ideals of the *Académie des Beaux-Arts* of France. The Academy was the government backed art school.
- The Impressionists formed their own group & exhibited their own works because The Academy’s Salon art shows rejected them.
- The Impressionist group consisted of women & men from Europe & America; their work was influenced by Japanese woodblock printing.





Edgar Degas, *Little Dancer Aged Fourteen* (1878-1881)

Pigmented beeswax, clay, metal armature, rope, paintbrushes, human hair, silk and linen ribbon, cotton faille bodice, cotton and silk tutu, linen slippers, on wooden base | 98.9 X 34.7 X 35.2 cm

CLICK BELOW to WATCH

this Commentary about the Impressionists:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_tw5IEh9vcw

“If we could approach the study of the Impressionists more as a child would, forgetting for the time being the ideas and mental visions which we have acquired from other men...”

—Charles Lois Borgmeyer

LIGHTER READINGS

A| “Impressionism: Art and Modernity” by Margaret Samu
Institute of Fine Arts, New York
University

CLICK: https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/imml/hd_imml.htm

B| “Angry Young Man” from *The Guardian*

CLICK: <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2007/feb/12/art.features11>



Berthe Morisot, *Young Girl in a Ball Gown* (1879)
Oil on canvas, W. 540 x H. 710 cm

HEAVIER READINGS

A| *The Master Impressionists* by Charles L. Borgmeyer

CLICK: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1N2xNjfHcsT4puEsBgba_SuFsiaDIiKAC/view?usp=sharing

B| “The Historical Cassatt” from *Mary Cassatt: A Life* by Nancy Mowll Mathews

CLICK: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1twlWackbgvgU39mCZ3-fnZHVTRfuGb3v/view?usp=sharing>



Pierre-August Renoir, *Dance at Bougival* (1883)
Oil on canvas, 181.9 x 98.1 cm

ASSIGNMENT OPTIONS

1. Choose a reading & respond to it. Consider the individuals that made up the Impressionist group. Choose two separate artworks by two different painters—list that info in your response. Compare & contrast them. Consider what you know about Impressionists as a whole.

2. Consider watching a portion of the BBC's *The Impressionists*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNcsxUYITR8&t=703s>

Then answer: does this screening help you to frame the mission of the Impressionist painters? What were these artists up against? Consider the Salons, the Academy, the War...

3. OR PROCEED TO THE NEXT SLIDE...



Camille Pissarro, *The Boulevard Montmartre at Night* (1897)
Oil on canvas

M 'O' VIRTUAL VISIT—

The Musée de l'Orangerie in Paris

- Click this Link: <https://www.musee-orangerie.fr/en/article/set-orangerie>
- Pick one of the *Water Lilies* works featured at the Musée de l'Orangerie
- Take the “Virtual Visit” by clicking on the right hand side of the screen to get a sense of how large these works are
- Now consider the painting you have chosen & try to pair it with an instrumental song or a poem. Which painting & song/poem did you pair? How does this help you reflect on the beauty of daily life?



Claude Monet, *Rouen Cathedral: The Portal (Sunlight)* (1894)
Oil on canvas
99.7 x 65.7 cm

“Your fervent attempt to be both a teacher and an artist may at times seem like an undertaking that’s simply beyond your capacity—beyond anyone’s capacity. That’s okay. From tremendous effort, tremendous things sometimes emerge. You’ll simply never know if you don’t try to find out what your true capacity is. I expect it will be far greater than you ever thought possible.”

—Renoir