Level
2 - 5

The Works of
Pierre-Auguste Renoir

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Contents

Renoir was a famous French painter. He lived at the same time as Claude Monet. In fact, they were friends! They both painted in the style of art called Impressionism.

A self-portrait by Renoir (1875)

The Bridge at Villeneuve-la-Garenne by Sisley (1872)

Bouquet of Chrysanthemums by Renoir (1881)

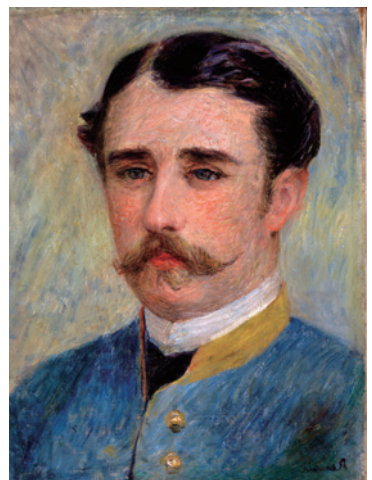*The Japanese Footbridge* by Monet (1899)

Paintings by Impressionist artists

The Luncheon of the Boating Party by Renoir (c. 1880)

Renoir liked to create portraits and still-life paintings. He used bright colors. He tried to show something beautiful, no matter what the subject was.

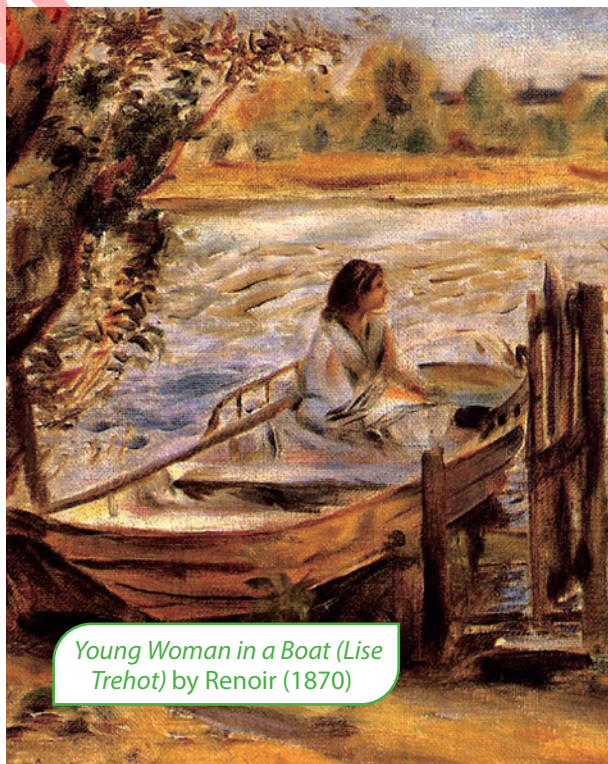*Portrait of a Man* (Monsieur Charpentier) by Renoir (c. 1879)

Early Life

The Artist's Mother
by Renoir (1860)

Renoir was born in Limoges, France, on February 25, 1841. His parents made and fixed clothes. When he was three years old, his family moved to Paris. There, they lived very close to the Louvre!
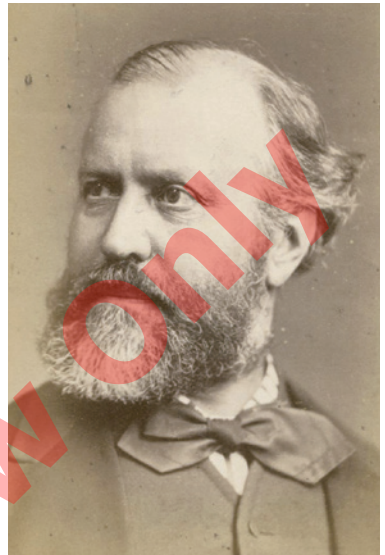
Spring Bouquet by Renoir (1866)

Young Woman in a Boat (Lise Trehot) by Renoir (1870)

Renoir showed a natural talent for drawing at an early age. But his talent for singing was even greater. However, when he was 13, he had to stop music lessons. He left school to work in order to help his family.

Charles-François Gounod, Renoir's singing teacher who wrote the famous opera *Faust*

Children singing in a choir

A boy taking art lessons

Renoir worked at a shop for a porcelain painter. He copied designs onto plates and bowls. The painter liked Renoir's work, so he encouraged him to take art lessons.

Hand-painted porcelain plates and cups

Renoir often visited the Louvre because it was near his house. He copied much of the artwork he saw there.

The Louvre Museum

Mona Lisa and The Raft of the Medusa were in the Louvre when Renoir visited.

Romaine Lascaux
by Renoir (1864)

The Inn of Mother Anthony
by Renoir (1866)

In 1861, when he was 20 years old, Renoir studied at Charles Gleyre's studio. Gleyre taught the young artist techniques to paint people.

A portrait of Charles Gleyre, Renoir's teacher

Inside the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris

Renoir also met Alfred Sisley, Claude Monet, and other artists at Gleyre's studio. Over time, they became friends. A year later, Renoir began studying at the famous École des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

Renoir's painting of his friend Claude Monet (1872)