Pierre Auguste Renoir
February, 1841 – December, 1919

Pierre Auguste Renoir (pronounced “Renwar”) was born in France in 1841. He is one of the most famous Impressionist artists of all time.

As a young teen, he worked in a porcelain factory where painted flower designs on fine china. In 1862, when he was 21, he studied painting formally at an academy in Paris. He became friends with Claude Monet and other artists who shared his passion for painting outdoors, using light as a primary element in their paintings. Renoir and Monet are considered some of the founding artists of the Impressionist Movement.

Renoir continued to paint even during the last 20 years of his life when he was severely hampered by arthritis and wheel-chair bound. He painted by having a brush strapped to his fingers. He even created sculptures, dictating to an assistant who worked the clay.

Renoir’s paintings were thought to be always beautiful and optimistic, just like his view of life. His famous words are: “The pain passes, but the beauty remains.”

Unlike many artists, Renoir became famous in his own lifetime. One of the best known Impressionist works is Renoir's 1876 Dance at Le Moulin de la Galette (Le Bal au Moulin de la Galette) (1876), which sold after he died for $78.1 million in 1990!

Impressionist Art

Impressionist art is a style in which the artist captures the image of an object as someone would see it if they just caught a glimpse of it…just an “impression”.

The artists like to capture images without detail but with bold colors.

Impressionist artists were influenced by everyday objects like the countryside, river scenes, or people in action doing everyday things.
The Washer-Women by Renoir, Pierre Auguste

Type: Oil on canvas  Location: Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, USA

**Famous Quote by Renoir:**
"The pain passes, but the beauty remains."
"Why shouldn't art be pretty? There are enough unpleasant things in the world."

Pierre-Auguste Renoir (February 25, 1841 - December 3, 1919) was a French painter. The child of a working class family, he worked in a porcelain factory where his interest in painting led to him painting designs on china. In 1862 he studied art in Paris, where he met Sisley, Bazille and Monet.

His initial paintings were influenced by the artistry of Delacroix and his close friend Monet who helped Renoir found the Impressionism movement. He would go on to become one of the greatest painters of his time. Today his paintings are probably the most popular, well-known, and frequently reproduced images in the history of art.

A prolific artist, over a 60 year period, Pierre-Auguste Renoir made several thousand paintings, continuing to paint even during the last 20 years of his life when he was severely hampered by arthritis and wheelchair-bound. He continued to paint by using a brush strapped to his arm. He even created sculptures, dictating to an assistant who worked the clay.

In 1919, Renoir had the extraordinary experience of visiting the Louvre to see his paintings hanging with the old masters.

Pierre-Auguste Renoir died in the village of Cagnes-sur-Mer, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, on December 3, 1919.

Two of Renoir's paintings have sold for more than US$70 million.
The work of Pierre Auguste Renoir, one of the most famous Impressionist artists, was the focus of Art Masterpiece today. He began developing his talent at an early age as an apprentice painting flowers on dishware and fans as early as 13 years old. In his 20's he became friends with Claude Monet and others who shared his passion for painting outdoors, including light as a primary element in their paintings.

Renoir came from a very poor family who could not afford to support him. Friends would lend him money or give him paints and canvasses. Sometimes he would go without food. In the 1890's, he began to earn a reasonable amount of money. However, he and his family continued to live simply. One example of this is how Renoir wears the same double breasted tweed coat in many photographs taken of him over the years.

The Washerwomen was the focus of our discussion today. Pictures like this were called "open air" paintings and displayed bursts of color reflecting the real outdoors. The "impression" of the artist as they viewed and painted people interacting with each other and nature is the foundation of this type of art!

Renoir developed his own delicate touch and vibrant color that was clearly his own style. He enjoyed painting his friends and family - "life in action!" Sunshine, people, water, women, children, and "happy" situations! Unlike many artists, Renoir became famous in his own lifetime! He was honored by his country of France through having his paintings on display at the Louvre in Paris (a very famous art museum). Maybe you can plan a trip to see his paintings someday!
Pierre Auguste Renoir (Renwar) Born in France 2/25/1841-12/17/1919
lived to be 78 years old, if he was alive today he would be 170 yrs old.

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Friends would lend him money or give him paints and canvasses. At the age of 13 he
began painting flowers on dishware at a porcelain factory and later painted fans and
screens. In 1862, when he was 21, he entered an art studio to study. He became
friends with two other artist, that shared his passion to take up painting outdoors.

Renoir had developed a delicate touch and vibrant colors that were distinctly his own.

In the early 1870's, Renoir and his friends joined with other artists to form a group of
artists now known as the Impressionist Movement.

THE DEFINITION:

Impressionist art is a style in which the artist captures the image of an object as
someone would see it if they just caught a glimpse of it. They make the picture with a
lot of color and most of their pictures are outdoor scenes. Their pictures were very
bright and vibrant. The artists like to capture their images without detail but with bold
colors.

Some impressionist were influenced by everyday objects, some by the French
countryside and river scenes, others enjoyed painting ballet dancers and horse races, or
women doing everyday things.

He participated in the first impressionist exhibition in 1874 and remained an
impressionist through out the 70's. In the early 1880's Renoir became unsatisfied with
the restrictions of a pure impressionist, so he made his figures larger and placed them
closer to the picture plane. With the setting treated like a simple backdrop. In the
1890's he concentrated on the female figure. Using warm flesh tones and more exotic
colors. Unlike many artists, Renoir became famous in his own lifetime. He began to
earn a reasonable amount of money. However, he and his family continued to live very
simple.

He finally settled in Nice, were the sun drenched climate reflected in his later work. In
his last years, (after 1913 when he was in his 70's) he also made sculptures with the
aid of an Italian assistant.
THE WASHERWOMAN

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