Berthe Morisot
1841 - 1895

Going where few women had gone before…
Bourges, France

1841
C’est la vie!

Berthe grew up in a wealthy family. She moved to Paris at age 7.

“I’d rather be painting…”

“The Balcony” by Edouard Manet
Berthe & her 2 sisters were educated at home until, in their teens, they were sent to private school to learn the feminine arts of needlework, drawing and piano. Berthe’s giftedness in art became apparent. Regardless of social traditions, Berthe decided to pursue a career in art.
Berthe began by copying the great masters, but was attracted to a group of artists called the “Impressionists” who tried to quickly capture the effects of sunlight on everyday scenes of life. Berthe later developed an Impressionistic style of her own.
Impressionism

- Sketchy
- Choppy brush-strokes
- Thick gobs of paint (impasto)
- Bright colors
- Often outside
- Not detailed
- Feature ordinary people, not mythic or heroic
Other Impressionists in Paris

Manet

Pissaro

Renoir

Monet
While her male counterparts were painting landscapes, Berthe, being a woman, could not wander about unaccompanied. She, therefore, painted the life she saw:
• Women & children
• Wealthy women at their leisure

Berthe used a naturalistic palette (green trees were painted in green), unlike some of the other impressionists.
“Dans la Salle a Manger”
(In the Dining Room) by Berthe Morisot
“The Cheval Glass”
by Berthe Morisot
“Fillette au Chien”
(Girl on a Chair)
by Berthe Morisot
“Julie Daydreaming” (the artist’s daughter)
“Julie Manet and her Greyhound Laertes” (the artist’s daughter)
En Plein-Air

Berthe married the brother of fellow impressionist, Edouard Manet, in 1874. Despite her marriage, she did not give up painting. She further shocked her contemporaries by continuing to work using her maiden name, Morisot. And, despite cultural restrictions, she went outside the home to paint, just as the male impressionists were doing.
“In a Park” by Berthe Morisot
“In a Boat” by Berthe Morisot
Berthe created over 350 paintings between 1874 and her death in 1895. Most show women & children in the home and most used members of Berthe’s family as models. Because Berthe painted the subjects around her, we are able to catch a glimpse of the behaviors and standards of another time.
The Art of Berthe Morisot
Au bal par Berthe Morisot
Berthe Morisot
1841 - 1895
Our Masterpiece

“Portrait de Mademoiselle M.T.” 1873
NOW YOU DO IT!

Write your name on the paper then flip it over.

Susan Smith
• In pencil, lightly sketch a portrait of someone close to you (friend or family).
• Keep it simple. NO MAJOR DETAILS.
• The person should fill the page – they should be so large that you can only see the upper part of their body.
• The subject should be unaware of your presence (i.e., not looking at you).
• Use short, choppy strokes to color in the portrait with oil pastels.
• Make sure you color the background, too!
Place your portrait on one of the shelves around the room.

Throw away your newspaper.

Put away your art supplies.

Take a word search/activity sheet.