



John Singer Sargent

La Carmencita c 1890

How can you tell that this woman is a dancer?

John Singer Sargent painted this portrait of the Spanish dancer known as La Carmencita (little Carmen) after she became famous in Paris. Sargent painted the figure in bold colours against a dark background to highlight his skill as a painter and express her dramatic dancing style.

How has Sargent used paint to create the shimmer of the dancer's dress?

Edgar Degas

Dancers climbing the stairs 1886–90

How many dancers can you see?

In *Dancers climbing the stairs* Edgar Degas creates a behind-the-scenes snapshot of a dancer's life off the stage. Light from the windows at the back of the rehearsal room falls across the dresses and the dancers' faces.

Why do you think Degas, in the composition of this painting, crops sections of the dancers' bodies?



Théo van Rysselberghe

The man at the tiller 1892

Name some of the colours you can see on this sailor's jacket.

Théo van Rysselberghe was born in Belgium and was influenced by artists from France, such as Georges Seurat and Paul Signac. These artists developed a new way of painting, using dots of different-coloured paint placed side by side on the canvas. This technique became known as Pointillism.

Describe the weather conditions the sailor is experiencing.



Camille Pissarro

Hoarfrost, peasant girl making a fire 1888

What season do you think it was when Camille Pissarro painted this scene?

In his later years Camille Pissarro lived in the countryside outside Paris, where he enjoyed painting the local people working on the land. In this painting Pissarro has used dots of different colours to create light and shadow.

Find all the elements in the painting which seem to be moving from left to right.



Paul Cézanne

Kitchen table (Still-life with basket) 1888–90

Can you identify all the objects on this small table?

This painting of a variety of objects sitting on a plain white cloth celebrates everyday life. The table comes from Paul Cézanne's studio and was often used by the artist for his still-life compositions. Cézanne likened still-life paintings to portraits of human subjects.

Discuss what you can learn about fruit from the way Cézanne has painted them.





Vincent van Gogh

Portrait of the artist 1887

What colours can you find in this self-portrait by Vincent van Gogh? Think about where you would find these colours on the colour wheel.

In *Portrait of the artist* van Gogh depicts more than just his outward appearance. He was trying to paint his inner self so that we could know more about him. So, just like Paul Cézanne's fruit in the previous painting, van Gogh discloses something about his character to the viewer.

Look carefully at the painting and discuss what you may be able to learn about the artist from his self-portrait.



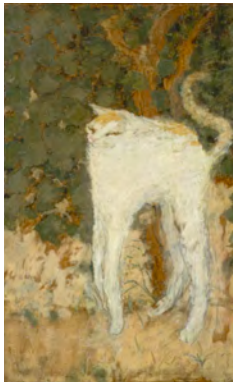
Paul Gauguin

Yellow haystacks (The golden harvest) 1889

What colour dominates this painting of two women stacking hay?

Paul Gauguin was attracted to rural areas where the people lived simple lives working on the land. Gauguin painted the harvest a number of times, because it is an important time of year in rural areas.

What would the farmers use the hay for?



Pierre Bonnard

The white cat 1894

Is this the kind of cat that would sit on your lap?

This cat with sleek white legs looks as though it has just woken up from a sleep. Pierre Bonnard exaggerates the length of its legs to create the feeling that the cat is stretching and swishing its tail. Cats were becoming popular pets in France at this time.

Can you decide on a name for this sleepy cat?



Odilon Redon

The sleep of Caliban 1895–1900

Did you notice the strange creature sleeping underneath this ancient tree?

Odilon Redon was inspired by the natural world and ancient myths. He painted this scene in response to a story written by William Shakespeare. The narrative takes place on an island.

Make up a story about the three floating heads and their relationship to the figure under the tree.

Edouard Vuillard

Public gardens: conversation, nurses, the red parasol 1894

What games do you think the children are playing in this large painting of a park in Paris?



Edouard Vuillard painted nine panels based on the activities he saw in two famous parks in Paris. The panels were made to be hung in one of the rooms of a grand house in the city. When people sat in the middle of the room they could pretend that they were visiting the park.

Can you work out what is happening in each of the groups of figures in this painting?



Claude Monet

Waterlily pond, green harmony 1899

Can you see the reflections of the light on the bridge?

From 1883 Claude Monet lived in Giverny, a small town 80 km from Paris. After a number of years he bought some extra land next to the house and changed the course of a small stream to create a lily pond and beautiful gardens. The pond featured in many of Monet's paintings for the next 25 years until his death in 1926.

Imagine you are walking across Monet's bridge. What would you hear, feel and smell as you walked over the pond?



Camille Pissarro

Pont Boieldieu, Rouen, sunset, misty weather 1896

What kind of day has Camille Pissarro painted?

In 1896 Pissarro rented a hotel room in Rouen for a couple of months in order to paint the city. Looking down from his hotel window, Pissarro was able to capture the hustle and bustle of the city. Pissarro liked Rouen because the town had old buildings as well as new industrial areas.

What kinds of transport can you see?



Charles Angrand

Couple in the street 1887

What time of day do you think it is?

Charles Angrand thought that ordinary people were just as interesting and important to paint as the rich and fashionable residents of Paris. The artist has used dots of blue, green, pink and red to create a warm, positive atmosphere.

Where do you think the man and woman are going?



Paul Signac

Entry to the Port of Marseilles 1911

How many different types of boats can you see?

In this painting of the Port of Marseilles, Paul Signac used his brush to apply small rectangular brushstrokes, which are tessellated to give a mosaic effect. These brushstrokes define the shapes of the buildings, boats and reflections on the water.

What do you think this city would be like to live in?



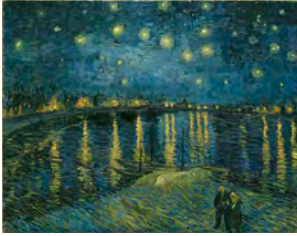
Paul Cézanne

Kitchen table (Still-life with basket) c 1888-90

Where would you find the objects on this table?

This tumbling arrangement of fruit and pots on a plain white cloth celebrates everyday life. The table is from the artist's studio and was often used by Paul Cézanne in his compositions. Cézanne likened his still-life paintings to portraits.

Discuss how you think Cézanne has painted a portrait of the fruit.



Vincent van Gogh

Starry night 1888

What are the three main colours Vincent van Gogh has used in *Starry night*?

Van Gogh arrived in Arles in 1888, hoping that other artists would also come to live and paint there. The expanse and drama of the evening sky was exciting for van Gogh, especially with the gaslights of the city reflected in the water and the twinkling stars in the sky.

What would be difficult about painting outside at night?



Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec

The clown Cha-U-Kao 1895

Look closely at the way Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec paints the fabric of this dancer's costume.

The dancer and clown Cha-U-Kao was one of Toulouse Lautrec's favourite models and her nickname came from the high-kicking dance she performed in dance halls in Paris.

Where is the man in this room?



Emile Bernard

Bathers with red cow 1887

In what sort of landscape has Emile Bernard placed his figures?

Bernard was only eighteen years old when he painted this group of figures. Large areas of pure colour are enclosed in strong, dark lines—a bit like the stained-glass windows you see in churches.

Did you find the cow with the curly tail?



Pierre Bonnard

The white cat 1894

What do you think this white cat is doing?

Cats were once just pets for the upper classes in France. By the time Pierre Bonnard painted this white cat they were becoming beloved pets in many French families.

What do you do when you wake up from a long sleep?



Maurice Denis

Panel for a girl's bedroom: September evening 1891

What time of day do you think it is?

This panel was one of four that Denis painted for a girl's bedroom. The colour and simple curved forms gave the paintings a sense of peace, offering a perfectly calm place to retreat to.

What season is September in the northern and southern hemisphere?