

The Art Institute of Chicago



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Fourth Grade is the year you visit the **Art Institute of Chicago**. By the time you view this presentation you may have already been or just about to go on your field trip.

This presentation is to give a brief history of some of the Institute's most well-known works and the artists that created them.

The Art Institute of Chicago

- The oldest and largest art museum and school in the mid-western United States.
- Was established in 1879 as the **Chicago Academy of Fine Arts**.
- It's predecessor was the **Chicago Academy of Design**, founded in 1866.
- It took it's current name of the **Art Institute of Chicago** in 1882.
- The Art Institute moved to it's current building in 1893, and was designed by the architectural firm of **Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge** as part of the **World's Columbian Exposition**.
- The **Goodman Theatre** was established as a gift to the Art Institute in 1925, and the **Goodman School of Drama** was operated by the Art Institute from 1930-1978. Then it became a school within **DePaul University** in 1978.
- The museum has more than 300,000 works of art! Is especially recognized for it's collection of 19th and 20th century French paintings.

Georges Seurat (1859-1891)



- French neo-impressionist painter who studied art as science. He was a very private man.
- Made the technique called pointillism which uses small dots of contrasting color to create his art.
- Spent his life studying color theories and the effects of different linear structures.
- Born in Paris, studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. Was influenced by Rembrandt and Goya.
- He created over 500 drawings, including 7 large paintings, and 60 smaller ones.

A Sunday on La Grande Jatte

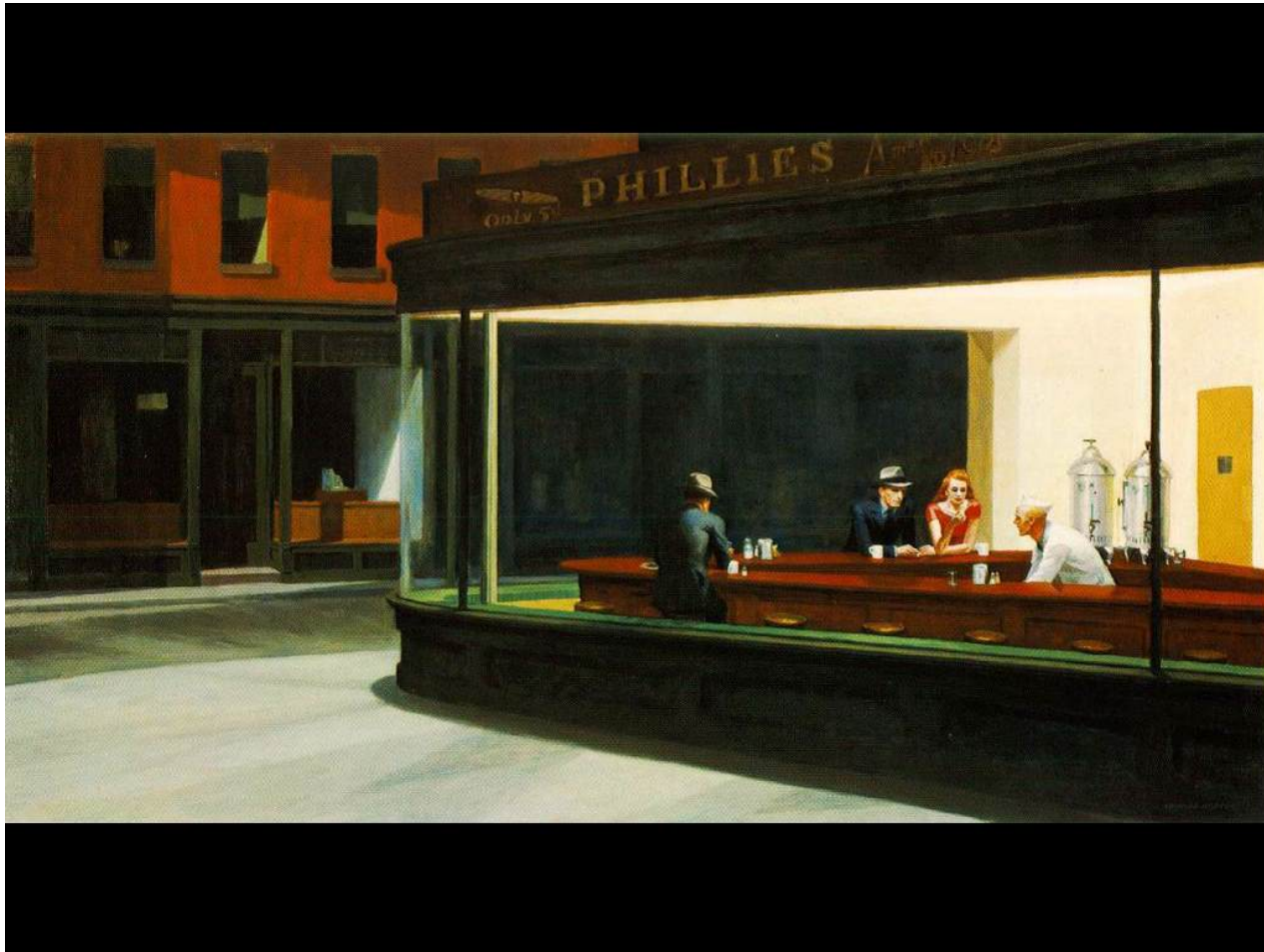


Edward Hopper (1882-1967)

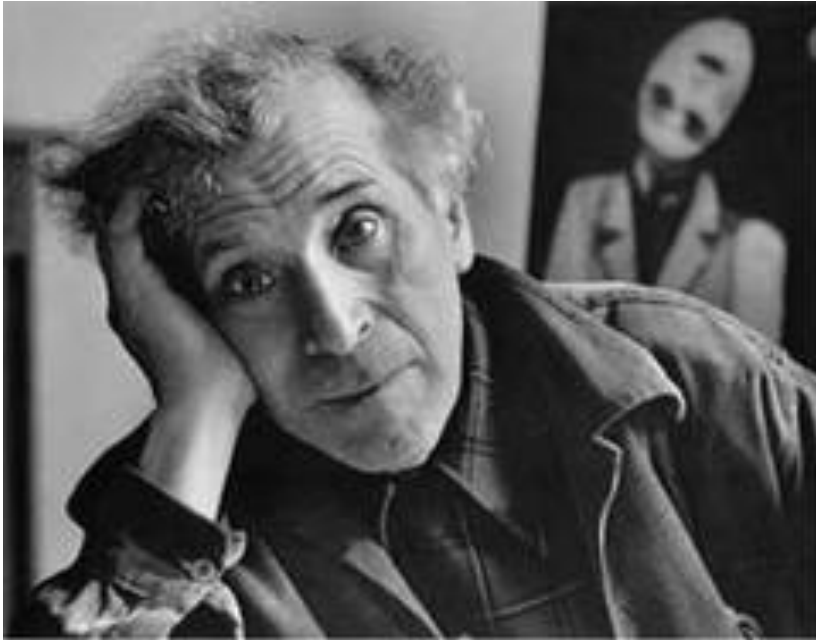


- American painter who used bright colors to depict ordinary scenes from everyday life.
- His paintings were done in a manner to create a somber, melancholy mood.
- His work had a “snapshot” like quality to them. Appearing more like a photograph than a painting.
- He was born, raised, and studied in New York. Traveled to Europe three times but lived in New York.
- Mostly focused on advertising and illustrative etchings until 1924 when took up painting full time.

Nighthawks



Marc Chagall (1887-1985)



- Russian born artist who painted everyday objects looking like they were floating in the scene, as if defying the laws of gravity.
- Borrowed elements from cubism, impressionism, and fauvism yet developed a style that can not be classified with any movement of his time.
- Studied in St. Petersburg and Paris. Returned to Russia in 1914, but left in 1922 as his works had fallen into disfavor with the Soviet Establishment.
- **America Windows** was created to celebrate the U.S. Bicentennial to show his thanks to the U.S. where he had come for safety during World War II.

America Windows

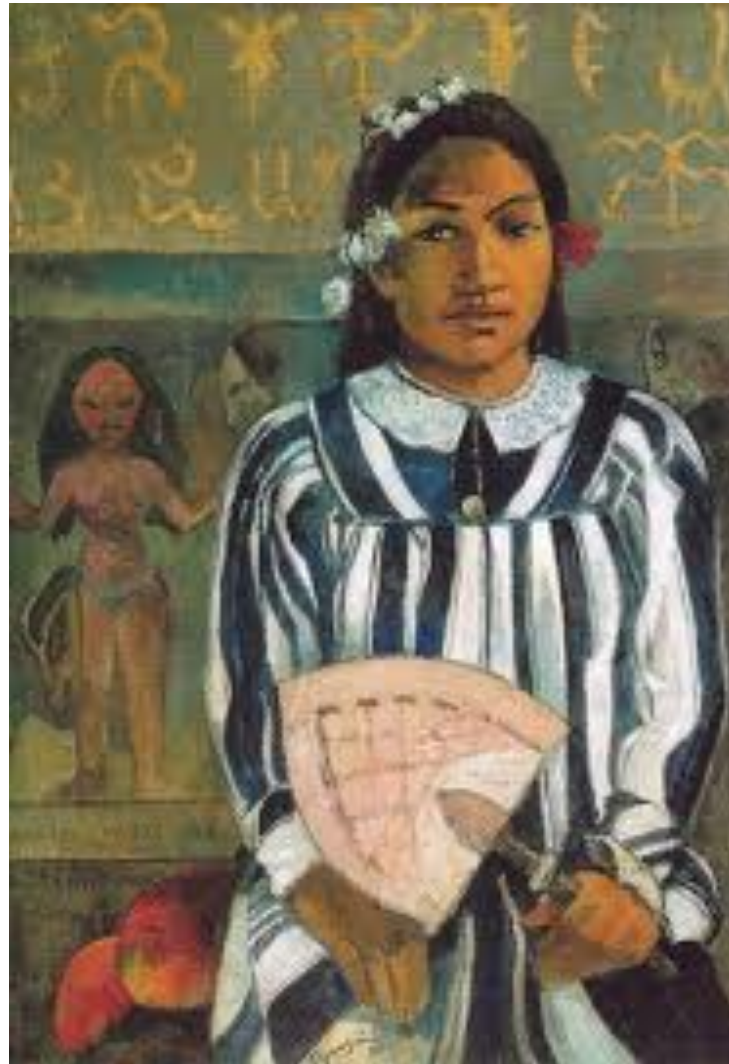


Paul Gauguin (1848-1903)



- French post-impressionist painter who liked to paint men and women in their natural, primitive, environment.
- Did a majority of his work living in Tahiti and islands in the southern Pacific Ocean.
- He sailed around the world for 7 years on freighters and warships. Worked for a stock-broking firm in Paris. Began painting after working in business.
- Collected works of many famous painters and studied with Picasso.

Ancestors of Tehamana



Edgar Degas (1834-1917)

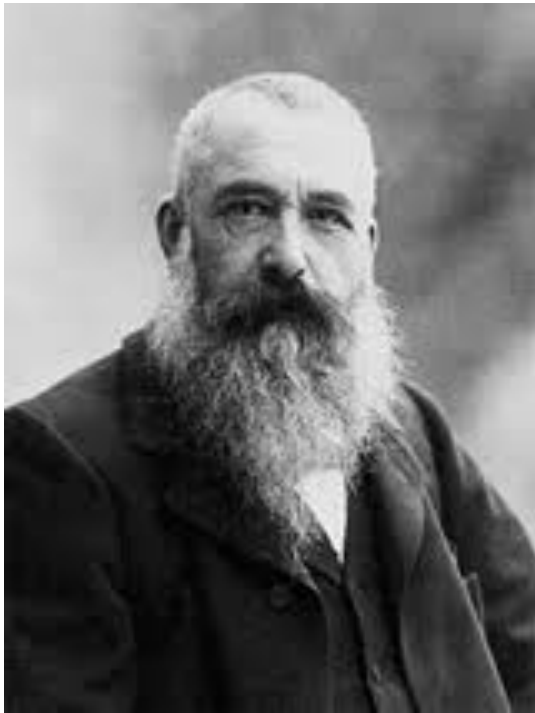


- French impressionist known for paintings of the human form in motion. Many feature female ballet dancers and bathers.
- He found new and brilliant solutions to the problems of form, composition, and color.
- He favored pastels.
- Born, raised, and studied in Paris at the Ecole Des Beaux-Arts, then traveled to Italy to study.
- Early works were historical paintings of classical subjects, then later contemporary city life scenes, then artist Eduoard Manet introduced him to Impressionism.
- He preferred indoor scenes over landscapes and preferred lighter scenes with firm lines.

The Star



Claude Monet (1840-1926)



- French, Paris born artist and leader of the 19th century impressionist art movement.
- He liked to painted outdoor scenes, trying to capture the changing effects of light.
- Spent many years struggling as an artist financially and didn't begin to enjoy financial success until 1886 as the market for his works grew in the U.S.
- Instead of mixing colors on his palette, he applied separate strokes of pure, unmixed color directly to the canvas.
- Critics often remarked his work looked “unfinished” due to this free style.

Water Lilies



Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890)



- Dutch post-impressionist painter who produced more than 1500 paintings and drawings during his life.
- Sadly he only sold ONE painting during his lifetime. It was not until after his death he became known as one of the world's greatest painters.
- Studied drawing in Brussels and used oil paints as his medium.
- Was a very solitary man who struggled with poverty and mental illness.
- It was after a quarrel with Paul Gauguin that he cut off his left ear.

Vincent Van Gogh Self Portrait



The Bedroom



Resources

Information within this presentation was found in the **Encyclopedia Britannica Online Library Edition** and **Google Images**.