

RENOIR and "Impressionism"

presentation :

- present painting "Girl with Watering Can" (painted in 1876) to the class before discussing the artist. Have the students give you their first "impression" of the painting, what do they see... their answers will help define the word "**Impressionism**"

- questions to lead discussion... (*list answers on the board*)

- What do you see? How would you describe the painting? (Girl, flowers, pretty, beautiful...)

- Is the scene indoors or outdoors? Where? (outdoors, in a garden, in nature...)

- What type of day is it? Season? (sunny, spring, summer...)

- What colors do you see? Are they bright, light, dark? (many colors, bright, colorful, complementary... red and green.)

- What do you think the mood is of the girl? (happy, joyful...)

- What do you think the mood of the artist who painted this is? Who would paint a pretty, joyful, colorful, bright painting? (someone who is happy... leads to discussion of who Renoir was...)

Renoir once said ... "*paintings should be likable, joyous, and pretty. There are enough unpleasant things in this world, we don't have to paint them as well.*"

- **Renoir** lived in Paris 1841-1919 (a little over a hundred years ago).

- he grew up very happy, one of seven children, and he loved to draw.

- his parents sent him to be an apprentice at the age of 13 at a porcelain studio painting flowers and pretty scenes on vases and bowls.

- when he got older he went to art school to learn how to be an artist. At school he had many artist friends, including Monet. They studied the art of the old masters which was very dark, detailed, and sometimes depressing. They decided to create a new form of painting called "Impressionism."

- he died at the age of 78 and painted over 6,000 paintings in his lifetime.

- **Impressionism** is a style of painting where the artists were not as interested in capturing all of the details of a subject, but rather the "Impression" of a moment in time. (*show on painting how Renoir did not paint all the details... the hand holding the watering can is blurry, fingers are not detailed...*)

- They loved color and the play of light on color. (*show on painting how Renoir used many colors to illustrate the girls hair, or the many shades of green in the grass...*)

- They used very quick, short brushstrokes, applying paint very thickly. (*show on painting the short strokes used to paint the grass and flowers...*)

- If you look closely at an Impressionistic painting, you'll see many 'blobs' of color that may not look like anything, until you back away and see the whole picture. (*show on painting an area of the garden, that if isolated from the scene just looks like blobs of color...*)

- They loved painting outdoors, painting nature, and joyful scenes of everyday life.

project:

- paint like an "Impressionist," paint something joyful, something that makes you happy...

- I presented in early spring and asked the students to think of something that makes them happy about spring (flowers, butterflies, rainbows, trees, grass, baseball, soccer, kites, sunshine..)

- I supplied watercolor paper, watercolors to share (2 or 3 trays per table), brushes and water cups.

- encourage students to paint something happy, joyful, use lots of color, fill the page, don't worry about details, create an "impression" (*use prompts from discussion of painting from above...*)