

OCTOBER 17, 2025 - FEBRUARY 8, 2026

Renoir Drawings

Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841-1919) is known for his paintings, but he also created sketches and drawings to work through his ideas. When we observe his drawings and paintings together, we can discover more about Renoir's creative process. Use this guide to look closely, learn more, and find inspiration of your own.

Pencils available at the Ticketing Desk.

Family
Activity
Guide

Renoir Drawings is organized by the Morgan Library & Museum and the Musée d'Orsay.

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Picture This

Find "Dance in the Country," a painting of two people dancing that is filled with color, movement, pattern, and expression.

What do you notice?

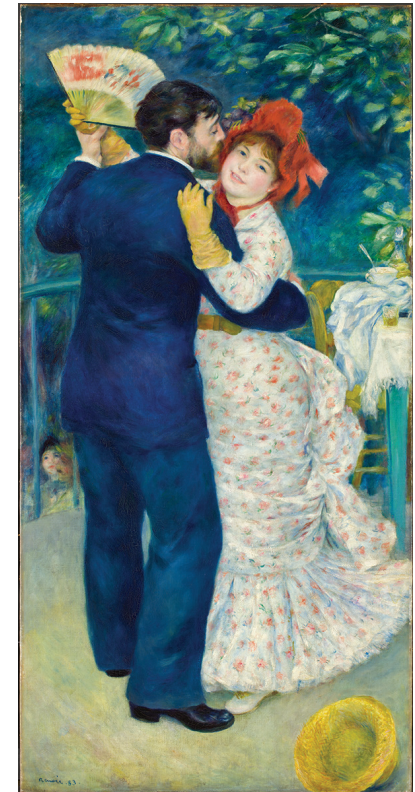
Look closely at the drawings to the left of the painting. Choose a work and compare it to the finished painting. **What is different?**

What is the same?

Look at the expression of the woman, and compare how her face changes from the drawings to the painting. **What does her facial expression tell us about how she feels?**

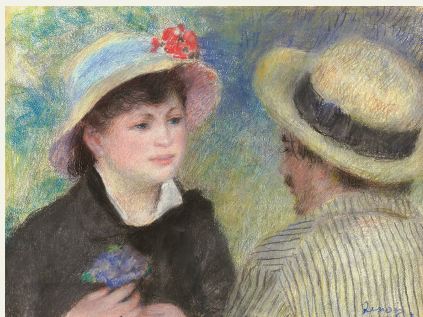


Auguste Renoir, "Study for 'Dance in the Country,'" 1883.
Yale University Art Gallery,
Bequest of Edith Malvina K. Wetmore.



Auguste Renoir, "Dance in the Country," 1883.
Musée d'Orsay, dist. GrandPalaisRmn.
Photography by Patrice Schmidt.

Share a Story



Auguste Renoir, "Boating Couple," 1880–81.
Photograph © 2025 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

When working on an idea for a painting, sometimes Renoir would create smaller works that let him play with characters.

Find the pastel "Boating Couple." Look closely at the facial expressions and body language of the two figures. Use your imagination to think about the conversation they are having. What might they be talking about? Do you want to join the conversation?

Act out the imagined conversation with someone in your group today or when you get home!

Portrait Mode

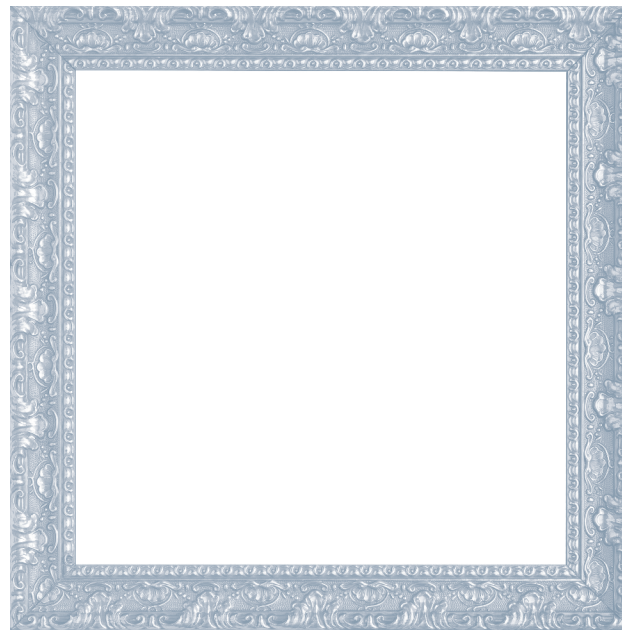


Auguste Renoir, "Child with a Cat or Julie Manet," 1887.
Musée d'Orsay, dist. GrandPalaisRmn. Photography by Patrice Schmidt.

A portrait is an image of a specific person, often showing their face and upper body. Find the painting of Julie Manet, niece of Renoir's friend and artist Édouard Manet, who is painted with her pet cat.

Imagine you will have your portrait painted. Consider the following questions: What will you wear? What expression will you have? Who (or what) will be in the portrait with you?

Draw your self-portrait below!



Personal Palette



Renoir used a lot of bright colors in his paintings and pastels, as he did here to create the dresses and hats. **As you explore the exhibition, look for paintings with your favorite colors.**

Auguste Renoir, "Pinning the Hat," 1890.
Image courtesy of Nelson-Atkins Digital Production & Preservation, Joshua Ferdinand.