

Lesson: Impressionistic Portraits  
Visual(s): Mary Cassatt Poster and PowerPoint  
Production: Portrait

# FIFTH & SIXTH LESSONS

## Objectives

**Students will** see the similarities between Japanese prints and Mary Cassatt's prints. They will learn to make careful observations as they create a detailed drawing of a model using the contour line method.

**Standard 1:** Students understand the characteristics of works of art in various eras and cultures.

**Benchmark(s):** Understand multiple purposes for creating works of art.

## Lesson Plan

### **Discussion Opener (anticipatory set):**

Look at the images of the Japanese prints. Notice the cropped objects, tilted perspective, patterned backgrounds, and bright colors. Mary Cassatt studies these prints and was greatly impressed with them. She liked them so much that many of her prints and paintings included some of the same elements.

Mary also highly honored her mother and father. She made portraits of her parents as well as many other mothers and their children. I think she could sense the importance of the nurturing relationship that parents have with their children.

### **Understand... (the big idea/ standards/benchmarks)**

There are multiple reasons for creating works of art. Cassatt enjoyed painting people doing normal, everyday activities.

### **Know...**

Mary Cassatt (locate the artist on the map)

Grew up near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Moved to France and spent the rest of her life there.

Highly influenced by Japanese prints and the Impressionists.

Is known as a pioneer among women artists.

Elements: line, shape, texture

Principles: balance, movement

Vocabulary

Cropping- cutting the edges

Contour line- a line that defines the edges and develops the illusion of volume and space

Impressionism- A style of painting which shows the natural appearance of an object using small strokes of unmixed colors

### **Be able to do (art production)...**

Practice contour drawings in the back of student notebook.

Create a detailed contour drawing of a mother holding a baby (or doll). Draw big! Color the drawing with bright oil pastels. When you are finished, crop the edges and cut out the drawing along the lines. Choose a piece of wallpaper as a background for your portrait. Glue the portrait on the wallpaper.

### **Art Criticism (describe, analyze, interpret, judge)**

What lines move your eyes to the center of interest?

Major Objective: Art lessons will focus on creating art in the styles of some of the major artists from the Renaissance through the present. Art lessons will also incorporate the Elements and Principles of design.

Theme: To develop an appreciation for a variety of art styles throughout history and to develop awareness that art reflects a wide range of thought and expression.