

RENOIR

Pierre Auguste Renoir was born in Limoges on February 25th, 1841. Son of a taylor, Leonard Renoir and factory worker Marguerite Merlet. When he was four years old the family moved to Paris. Since he was young he showed abilities for music and drawing, but the family tried to encourage him the taste for painting, because they thought it would be the easiest way for him to make a living. So, at 13, he entered as an apprentice to the Levy Brothers Store, porcelain decorators.

In 1862, for his evolution in the art of painting, besides the formal instruction he had, he entered the Fine arts school. He got into Charles Gleyre studio, swiss painter who was the owner of an arts store, where he met other young painters who, later on, would be entitled Impressionists.

In the beginning the works of the young painters were not welcome and they were even mocked by the artistic institutions, having their works refused for the Official Hall expositions.

Renoir, to survive, painted conventional portraits and exposed his refused works by the Official Hall at "Refused Hall". In 1865, he got two of his works accepted and exposed at the Official Hall: "Portrait of William Sisley" and "A summer afternoon".

In 1868 he started to work with Monet, one of his old friends from Gleyre store. They started painting together, near Paris, where Monet had a house which became a meeting point of those new painters. In 1874, tired of being rejected, other artists (Monet, Sisley, Berthe Morisot among others) and he organized the first exposition. Renoir included seven paintings. The exposition didn't have financial success, but gave the expositors the title of "Impressionists".

He finishes the work "The dancer" and "Moulin of the Galette". Renoir is confirmed as one of the most notable representatives of the Impressionism. In 1876, during the second Impressionist Exposition, Renoir presented 1 works, period on which his paintings were already causing a good impression, as the work Madam "Charpentier and her daughters", reaching a huge success at the Hall Exposition in 1879. In 1881 Renoir goes to Italy. He was so amazed with the work of the Italian Renaissance that he came to the conclusion that he knew nothing about drawing and very little about painting. It's from this moment on that the artist steadies his trace and abandones the impressionist way of applying the paints and small dabs, starting to use the method of spreading them in layers and varnish. Pleased with that work and with a financial stability he had obtained, became a more rigid and classic artist, without abandoning the coloring shine, a characteristic of the Impressionism. Here we can highlight "Young swimmer", "The toilette", among others.

Renoir starts to create his own techniques. The painting "Umbrellas", initiated in 1880 and finished in 1886 is a composition full of color plans. In his creativity he found out that a steady trace and richness of colors were incompatible things. Then he started to combine what he had learned about color, during his impressionist period, with traditional methods of paint applying. The result was a series of masterpieces. The official acknowledgement came in 1892, when the French government bought "By the Piano".

In 1885 Pierre is born, son of Renoir and Aline Charigot, who was his lover and model for a long time. Three years later, visiting Lézanne in Aix-en-Provence. Renoir found out Cagnes that started to be his winter residence. Maybe that was the reason why he started to suffer from arthritis and rheumatism.

He spend long periods in the south with Aline, who he had married to. His second son, Jean, was born in 1894. Later he would become one of the biggest movie directors in France.

The third son, Claude, was born in 1901. His house in Cagnes, Les Colletes, which Renoir built in 1907, became an important hideout for work and a normal life. Renoir felt more and more the difficulty of holding the brushes, due to the worsening arthritis. He had to tie them to the hands. He also started to sculpt, in the hope of being able to express his creative spirit through modeling. To do so, he needed the help of two artists: Richard Gieino and Louis Morel, who worked following Renoir's instructions. Still, Renoir continued working until the last day of his life. The sculptures, despite not being modeled by Renoir, show the characteristics of his stile. Later they were all hollowed in copper by instances of collector and businessman Ambroise Vollard. Renoir's wife, Aline Charigot, died in 1915. In August of 1919 he is taken by friends to the Louvre Museum to see for the first time, his work exposed: "Madam Charpentier and her daughters". At the Louvre it also the work finished in 1918: "The bathers". Renoir died in Cagnes, on December 3rd, 1919 at 78.

Selected works

Rowers' Lunch) (1875), Girl with a Watering Can (1876), Bal au moulin de la Galette, Montmartre (1876), Nude in the Sunlight (1876), Madame Charpentier and Her Children (1878), Jeanne Samary (1879), Acrobats at the Cirque Fernando (Francisca and Angelina Wartenberg) (1879), Two Women with Umbrellas (1879), On the Terrace (1881), Luncheon of the Boating Party (1881), The Piazza San Marco, Venice (1881), Blonde Bather (1881), Alice and Elisabeth Cahen d'Anvers (Pink and Blue) (1881), By the Seashore (1883), Umbrellas (1883), Dance at Bougival (1883), Fog at Guernsey (1883), Children on the Sea Shore in Guernsey (1883), The Bay of Moulin Huet Seen Through the Trees (1883), Girl with a Hoop (1885), Bathers (1887), The Bather (After the Bath) (1888), Young Girl with Daisies (1889), In the Meadow (1890), The Apple Sellers (1890), Two Girls at the Piano (1892), Vase of Chrysanthemums (1895), Coco (1905), Nude (1910).

