Artemisia Gentileschi

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Period
8 July 1593 in Rome, Italy. Died in 1654 or later in Naples, Italy.

Family
Married to Pierantonio Stiattesi. She had five children, of whom only Prudentia reached adulthood.

Art movement
Baroque

Her materials
Oil on canvas

Known for
Dramatic history paintings with strong female figures

Known work
Judith Slaying Holofernes

Artistic significance
She was one of the first women to establish herself in history painting.

Good to know
Her work is often viewed in a new light today because she depicted female figures as especially powerful, determined, and active.

Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun

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Period
16 April 1755 in Paris, France. Died on 30 March 1842 in Paris, France.

Family
Married to Jean Baptiste Pierre Le Brun. She had one daughter, Jeanne Lucie Louise. A second child died in infancy.

Art movement
Rococo, Neoclassicism, portrait painting

Her materials
Oil on canvas, pastel

Known for
Elegant portraits of the European nobility

Known work
Marie Antoinette en chemise

Artistic significance
She was one of the most successful portrait painters of her time and became especially known for her portraits of Marie Antoinette.

Good to know
During the French Revolution, she had to leave France and later worked successfully at several European courts.

Berthe Morisot

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Period
14 January 1841 in Bourges, France. Died on 2 March 1895 in Paris, France.

Family
Married to Eugène Manet. She had one daughter, Julie Manet.

Art movement
Impressionism

Her materials
Oil, watercolor, pastel, printmaking

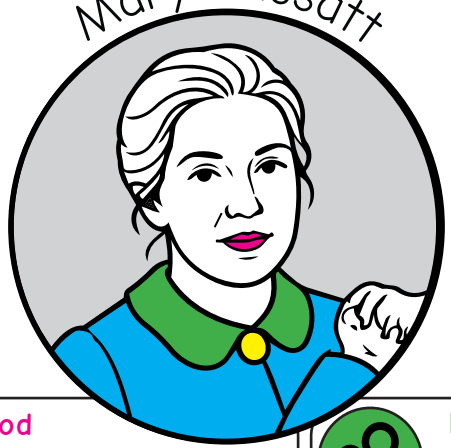
Known for
Bright everyday scenes, women, children, and private interiors

Known work
The Cradle

Artistic significance
She was a central artist of Impressionism and regularly exhibited with the Impressionist group.

Good to know
Her paintings often show quiet everyday scenes, but their painterly style is very modern and freely executed.

Mary Cassatt



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Period
22 May 1844 in Allegheny City, now Pittsburgh, USA. Died on 14 June 1926 at Château de Beaufresne near Paris, France.

Family
Not married. No children.

Art movement
Impressionism

Her materials
Oil, pastel, printmaking

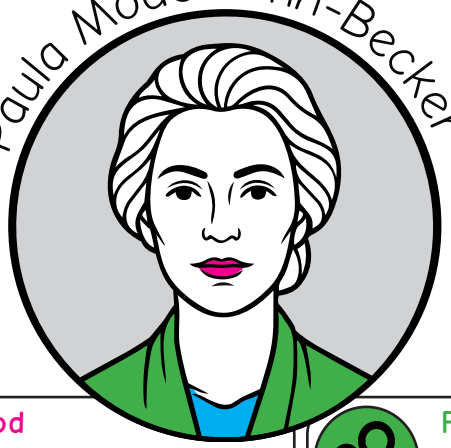
Known for
Mother and child motifs, everyday scenes, and women in private spaces

Known work
The Child's Bath

Artistic significance
She brought a modern view of women's lives into Impressionism.

Good to know
Although she often painted mothers and children, she had no children herself. Her subjects were therefore not simply autobiographical.

Paula Modersohn-Becker



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Period
8 February 1876 in Dresden, Germany. Died on 20 November 1907 in Worpswede, Germany.

Family
Married to Otto Modersohn. She had one daughter, Mathilde, called Tille.

Art movement
Early modernism, early Expressionism

Her materials
Oil on canvas, drawing, etching

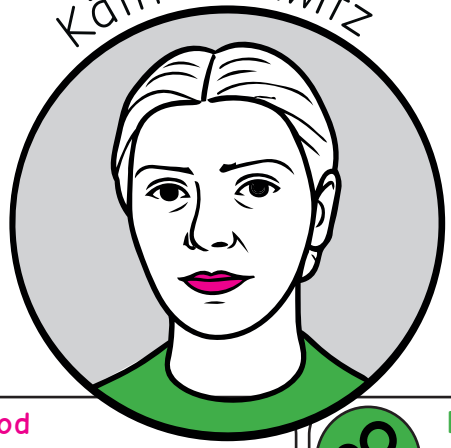
Known for
Self portraits, portraits of children, mother and child depictions, and simplified forms

Known work
Self Portrait on the Sixth Wedding Anniversary

Artistic significance
She is considered an important pioneer of modern art in Germany.

Good to know
She died very young, but left behind a large body of work with hundreds of paintings and drawings.

Käthe Kollwitz



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Period
8 July 1867 in Königsberg, now Kaliningrad. Died on 22 April 1945 in Moritzburg near Dresden, Germany.

Family
Married to Karl Kollwitz. She had two sons, Hans and Peter.

Art movement
Realism, Expressionism, socially critical art

Her materials
Drawing, lithography, etching, woodcut, bronze

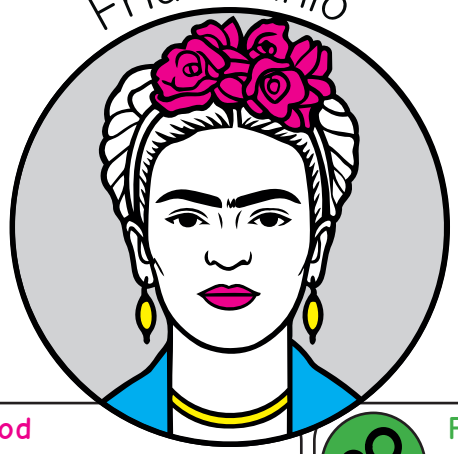
Known for
Art about poverty, war, grief, loss, and compassion

Known work
Never Again War

Artistic significance
She showed with great intensity that art can take on social responsibility.

Good to know
The death of her son Peter in the First World War strongly shaped her antiwar art.

Frida Kahlo



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Period
6 July 1907 in Coyoacán, Mexico City, Mexico. Died on 13 July 1954 in Coyoacán, Mexico City, Mexico.

Family
Married to Diego Rivera. The marriage ended in divorce and was later resumed. She had no children.

Art movement
Mexican modernism, Symbolism, often associated with Surrealism

Her materials
Oil on canvas, small panels, self portraits

Known for
Symbolic self portraits about pain, identity, the body, and Mexican culture

Known work
The Two Fridas

Artistic significance
She made personal experience, physicality, and identity central themes in her paintings.

Good to know
Many of her paintings are self portraits, but they are not simple likenesses. They are full of symbols.

Georgia O'Keeffe

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Period
15 November 1887 near Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, USA. Died on 6 March 1986 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA.

Family
Married to Alfred Stieglitz. No children.

Art movement
American modernism

Her materials
Oil, watercolor, charcoal drawing

Known for
Large scale flowers, desert landscapes, bones, and natural forms

Known work
Jimson Weed

Artistic significance
She is one of the most important voices of American modernism and made natural forms newly perceptible through strong enlargement.

Good to know
New Mexico became an important center of her life and artistic imagery.

Louise Bourgeois

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Period
25 December 1911 in Paris, France. Died on 31 May 2010 in New York City, USA.

Family
Married to Robert Goldwater. She had three sons, one of whom was adopted.

Art movement
Modern and contemporary art, sculpture, installation

Her materials
Bronze, marble, fabric, wood, metal, rubber, drawing

Known for
Large spider sculptures, memory spaces, and works about family, protection, and vulnerability.

Known work
Maman

Artistic significance
She transformed personal memories and emotional experiences into powerful sculptural forms.

Good to know
Her spiders often seem threatening, but they can also stand for protection, the mother figure, and craftsmanship.

Lee Krasner

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Period
27 October 1908 in Brooklyn, New York, USA. Died on 19 June 1984 in New York City, USA.

Family
Married to Jackson Pollock. No children are known.

Art movement
Abstract Expressionism

Her materials
Oil, collage, drawing

Known for
Dynamic abstract painting and expressive surfaces

Known work
The Seasons

Artistic significance
She was an independent artist of Abstract Expressionism and constantly developed her visual language.

Good to know
For a long time, she was seen too much through her famous husband Jackson Pollock. Today, her own work is receiving greater recognition.

Yayoi Kusama

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Period
22 March 1929 in Matsumoto, Japan. She passed away in August 2026.

Family
As far as publicly known, not married and no children.

Art movement
Pop Art, Minimalism, installation, contemporary art

Her materials
Painting, sculpture, mirror rooms, light, installation, performance

Known for
Dots, repetitions, pumpkins, and infinite mirror rooms

Known work
Infinity Mirror Rooms

Artistic significance
She turned repetition, pattern, and spatial effect into an unmistakable artistic system.

Good to know
For her, the dot is not just decoration, but a central sign in her art.

Sofonisba Anguissola

zeichnen-lernen.net

Period
Around 1532 in Cremona, Italy. Died in November 1625 in Palermo, Italy.

Family
Married twice, first to Fabrizio Moncada Pignatelli, later to Orazio Lomellino. Her own children are not reliably documented.

Art movement
Renaissance

Her materials
Oil on canvas, drawing, portrait painting

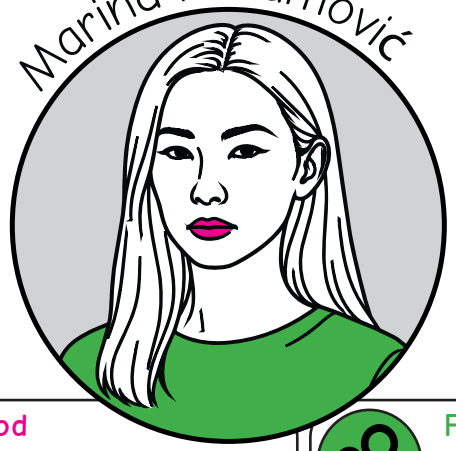
Known for
Finely observed portraits and family scenes

Known work
The Chess Game

Artistic significance
She was one of the first internationally recognized female artists in Europe.

Good to know
She worked at the Spanish court and was also admired by famous artists of her time.

Marina Abramović



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Period
30 November 1946 in Belgrade, then Yugoslavia, now Serbia. She is still alive today.

Family
Married several times or involved in well known artistic partnerships, especially with Ulay. No children.

Art movement
Performance art, Conceptual art, Body Art

Her materials
Body, time, space, voice, audience, video, objects

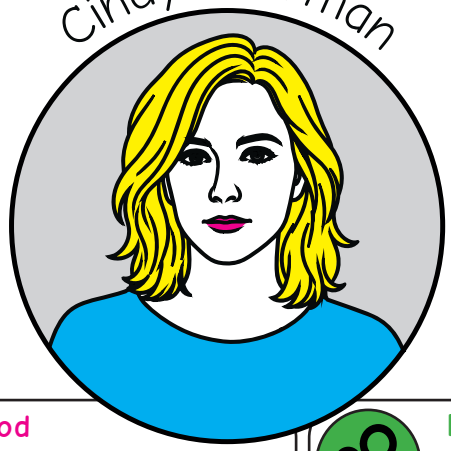
Known for
Extreme performances about endurance, pain, silence, risk, and the relationship with the audience

Known work
The Artist Is Present

Artistic significance
She made the action itself into the artwork and greatly expanded the concept of art.

Good to know
In her work, art often comes into being only in the moment of performance and through the encounter with the audience.

Cindy Sherman



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Period
19 January 1954 in Glen Ridge, New Jersey, USA. She is still alive today.

Family
Married to Michel Auder, later divorced. Her own children are not publicly documented.

Art movement
Conceptual art, photography, contemporary art

Her materials
Photography, costume, mask, makeup, staging

Known for
Staged photographs in which she presents herself in different roles

Known work
Untitled Film Stills

Artistic significance
She shows how identity, role models, and media images are constructed.

Good to know
Her photographs are not classic self portraits. She uses herself as a model to make social roles visible.