

Pierre August Renoir



Hi Mom and Dad,

Today one of the art parents came for a special Earth Month art project. We learned about Pierre August Renoir, whose paintings show how much he loved nature.

In "Girl With A Watering Can," Renoir tried to save forever the special moment in time of a little girl among the flowers. Capturing these "moments in time" is part of what defines an Impressionist painter, like Renoir.

We looked at other Impressionist paintings and noticed that their style was looser than classical paintings, and more focused on small moments instead of grand events. Impressionist artists like Renoir, Monet, and Degas were striving to paint an impression of those special moments in time, often using relaxed, visible brush strokes.

We got to try our hand at creating an impressionist picture. Our goal was to be very free with our strokes, just trying to capture the essence of something in nature, like a tree or landscape.

Since we love nature as much as Mr. Renoir, we decided to help it along a little by planting a seed that could one day be a big tree. If we keep it on the windowsill for about 2 more weeks, we can then plant it in the garden until it's a sapling. Then we can replant it— wherever another tree is needed! Just keep the soil lightly moist, and someday we could have a tree that could be a subject for one of our own paintings. We talked about how planting a tree is a great way to help take care of the Earth.

Ask me how Renoir painting once he was older with arthritis (he had to tie the paint brush to his hand!) We are lucky that this talented artist was so dedicated to capturing those beautiful moments in nature.