

## SHEILAH GROGAN INFLUENCES

*We are the sum of all people we have ever met; you change the tribe and the tribe changes you.*

*— Dirk Wittenborn, Fierce People*

Perhaps Wittenborn's statement is a bit too sweeping, but it is at least true in part. When I was first introduced to the work of these artists, either in classrooms, museums, galleries, or in the pages of books, I was exhilarated. As much as their pictures took hold of my imagination, when I read about their lives, learned about their ingenious ways of approaching their world, and their determination to be true to themselves regardless of the cost, I was even more inspired. I loved them, but I also *identified* with them. The connection was like a sunburst of inspiration that triggered a call to create with the fierce loyalty to a personal narrative such as they have done.

When possible, I have included quotes from the artists that are emblematic of what I specifically connect with in their work and personality. I am so glad they followed their truest selves and brought their gifts into the world. Many of these works seem like old friends to me. They have always spoken a truth that I needed to hear in order to truthfully bring my pictures into the world.

## Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986)

Through her exploration and growth as an artist, she helped to establish the American modernism movement. She had a fondness for intense and nocturnal colors. O'Keeffe painted to express her most private sensations and feelings. Rather than sketching out a design before painting, she freely created designs. She created simplified images of natural things, such as leaves, flowers, and rocks. O'Keeffe is known for her large-scale depictions of flowers, as if seen through a magnifying lens. Making magnified depictions of objects imbued a sense of awe and emotional intensity.

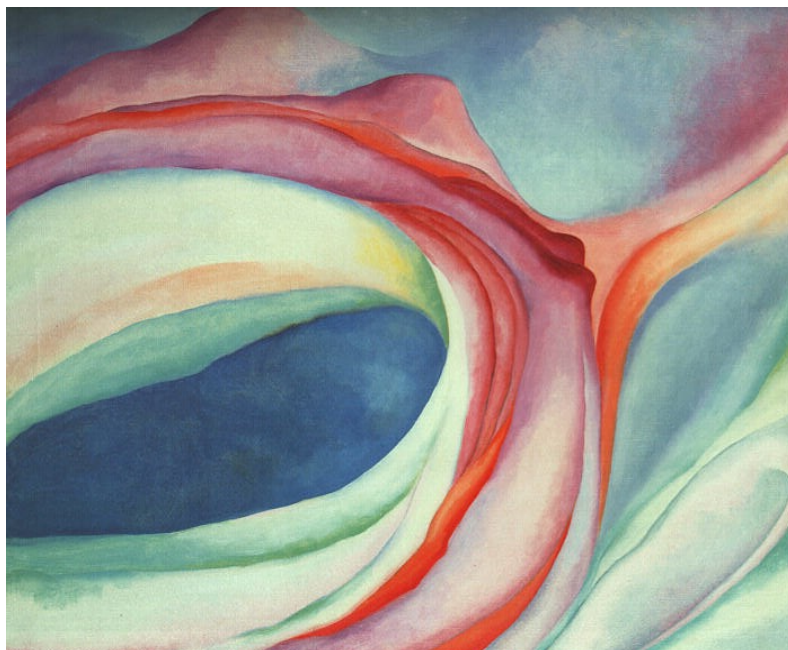






*You write about my flowers as if I think and see what you think and see  
of the flowers, and I don't*

*~ Georgia O'Keeffe*





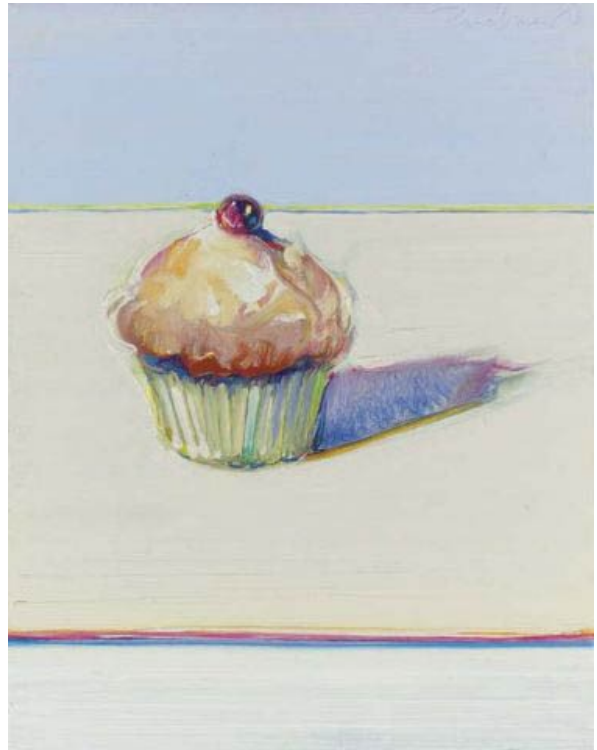
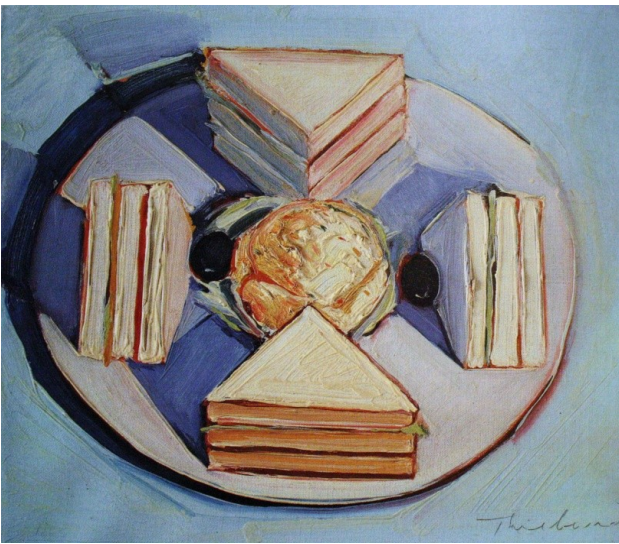
## Giorgio Morandi (1890-1964)

He was interested in the Futurists (Futurism was an Italian movement in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. They had a passionate loathing for anything old.) He was also interested in the Cubists. In his still life paintings, the objects are more and more reduced to their simple geometric shape. His brush stroke remains visible, so that the attention is turned to the application of the paint.



## Wayne Thiebaud (1920- )

Thiebaud is an American painter widely known for his colorful works depicting commonplace objects—pies, lipsticks, paint cans, ice cream cones, pastries, and hot dogs—as well as for his landscapes and figure paintings. Thiebaud is associated with the pop art movement because of his interest in objects of mass culture, although his early works, executed during the fifties and sixties, slightly predate the works of the classic pop artists. Thiebaud uses heavy pigment and exaggerated colors to depict his subjects, and the well-defined shadows characteristic of advertisements are almost always included in his work. His later work focuses on the urban landscapes of San Francisco in a sweeping and lush style.



*Common objects become strangely uncommon when removed from their context and ordinary ways of being seen.*

~ Wayne Thiebaud





*I'm not just interested in the pictorial aspects of the landscape, see a pretty place and try to paint it, but in some way to manage it, manipulate it, or see what I can turn it into*

~ Wayne Thiebaud





## Maxfield Parrish (1870-1966)

Parish earned a living primarily as an Illustrator. He is known for his distinctive saturated hues and idealized neo-classical imagery. He had a successful career working on children's books, posters, and calendars. His later work focused on fantastical landscapes. His non-commercial work was not well received during his lifetime.



*The hard part is how to plan a picture so as to give to others what has happened to you. To render in paint an experience, to suggest the sense of light and color, of air and space.*

~ Maxfield Parrish



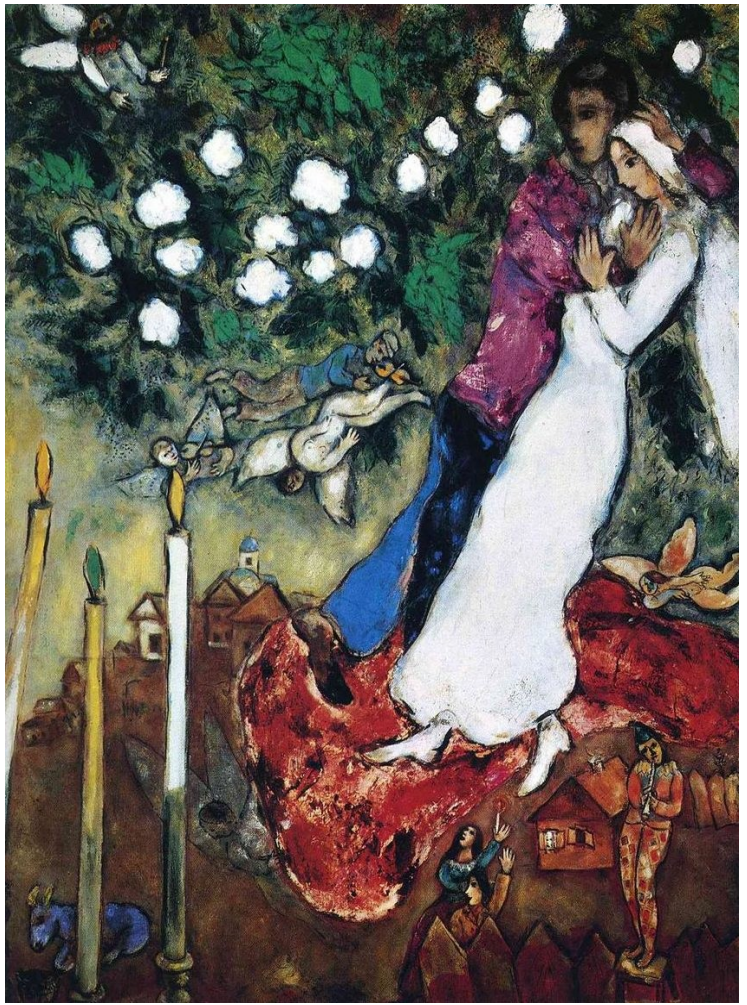
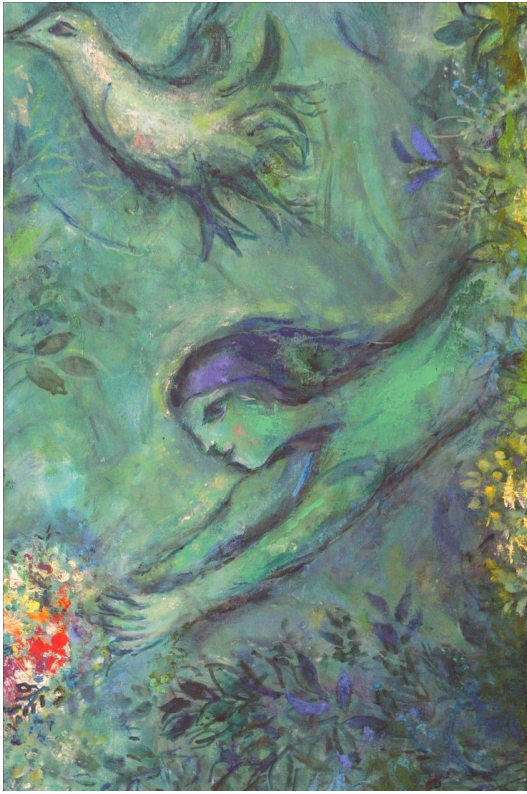
## Marc Chagall (1887-1985)



Chagall created works in virtually every artistic format, including painting, book illustrations, stained glass, stage sets, ceramic, tapestries and fine art prints. He has been called the quintessential Jewish artist of the twentieth century (though Chagall saw his work as "not the dream of one people but of all humanity"). According to art historian Michael J. Lewis, Chagall was considered to be "the last survivor of the first generation of European modernists"

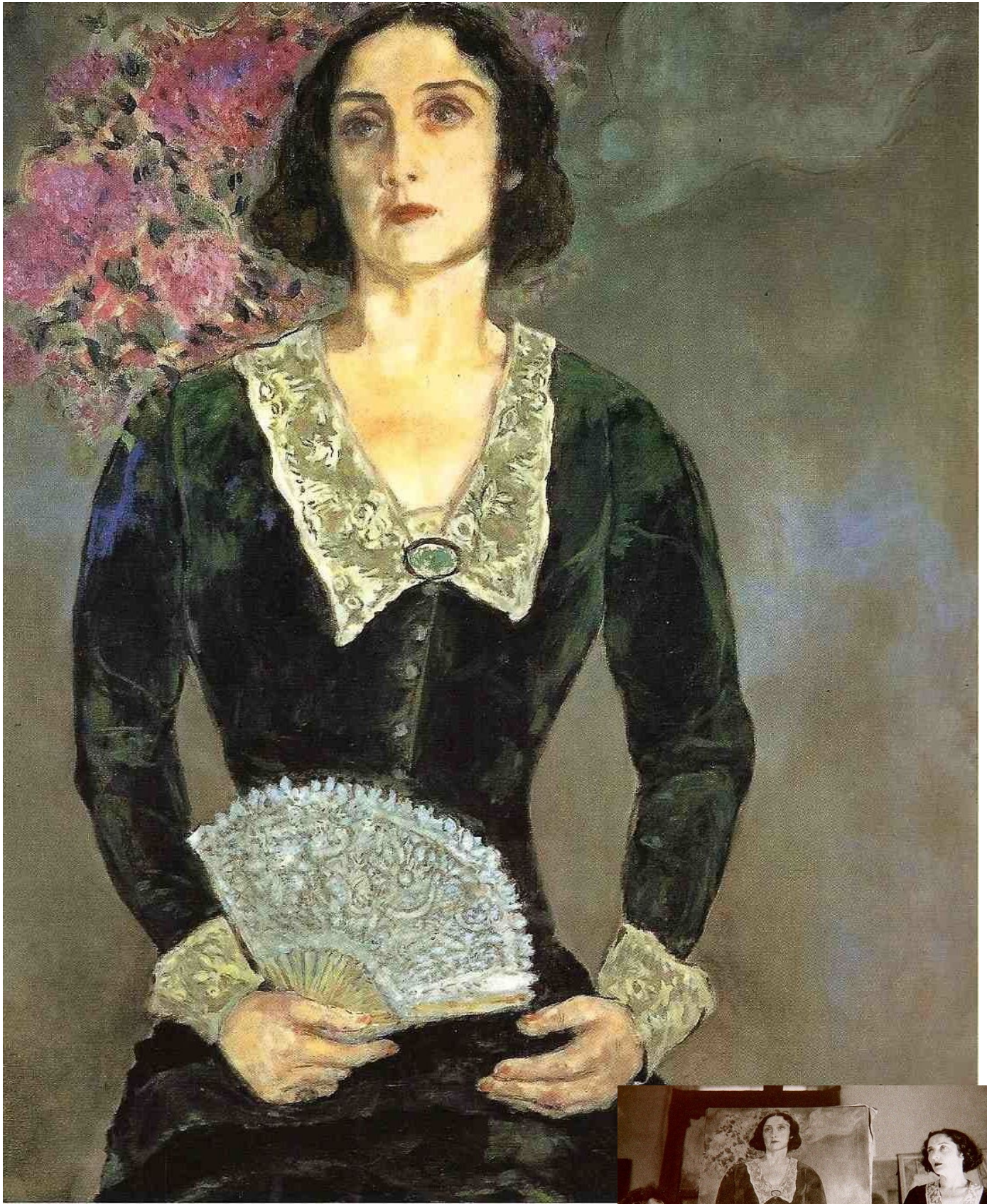
His work synthesized the art forms of Cubism, Symbolism, and Fauvism, and the influence of Fauvism gave rise to Surrealism" Yet throughout these phases of his style "he remained most emphatically a Jewish artist, whose work was one long dreamy reverie of life in his native village of Vitebsk."When Matisse dies," Pablo Picasso remarked in the 1950s, "Chagall will be the only painter left who understands what color really is".





*Only love interests me, and I am only in contact with things that revolve around love.*  
~ Marc Chagall







## Marie Laurencin - 1883-1956

French painter and printmaker, Laurencin was one of the few female member of the Cubists. Her work lies outside the bounds of Cubist norms in her pursuit of a specifically feminine aesthetic by her use of pastel colors and curvilinear forms. Laurencin continued to explore themes of femininity and what she considered to be feminine modes of representation until her death.



Why should I paint dead fish, onions  
and beer glasses? Girls are so much  
prettier.

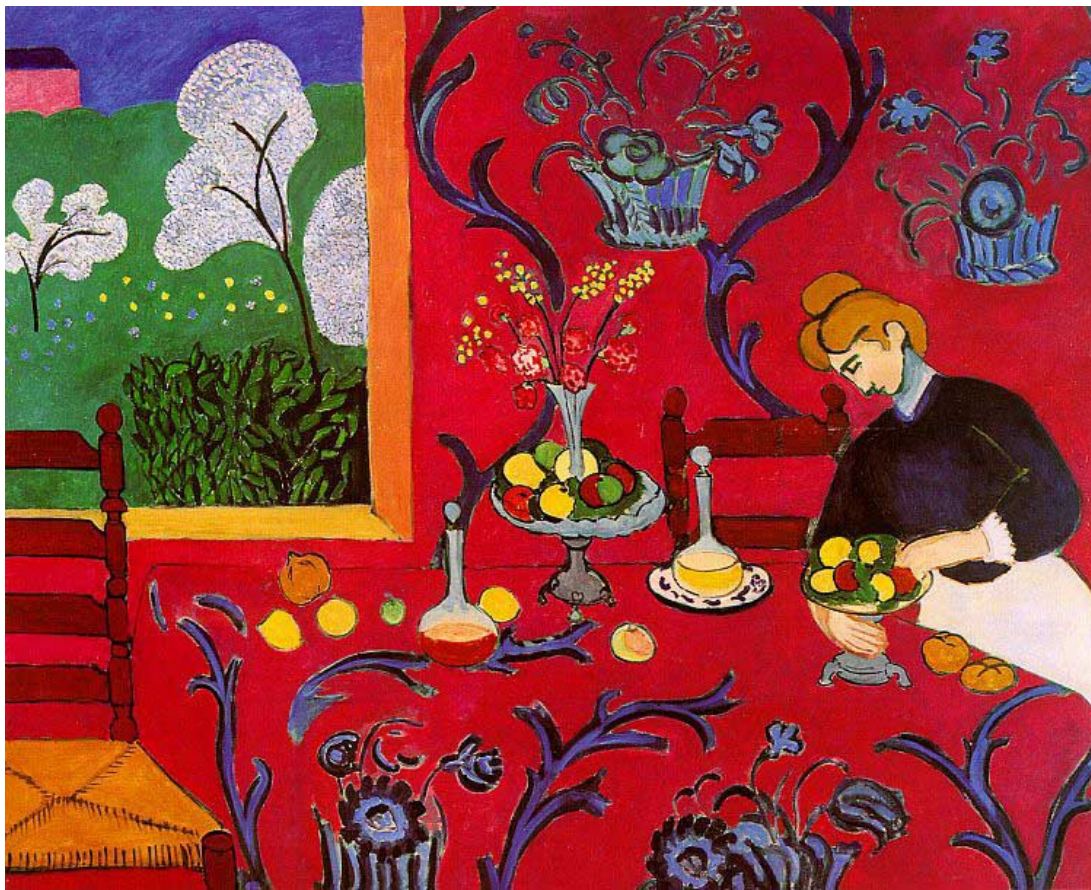
— Marie Laurencin



## Henri Matisse - 1869-1954

Matisse was associated with Modernism, and Post Impressionism. His use of color is one of his most extraordinary talents. Because of his fondness for bright and expressive color, he was called a Fauve, which means 'wild beast'. He was often compared with Picasso, his peer, however, one key difference between them is that Matisse drew and painted from nature, while Picasso was much more inclined to work from imagination. Later in life a new vigor and bolder simplification appeared in his work.

He said "I came to consider colors as forces, to be assembled as inspiration dictates. From that point on, I began working with a palette especially composed for each painting. As seen in The Red Room (Harmony in Red), he loved the bright clutter of overly furnished rooms.



*I have always tried to hide my efforts and wished my works to have a light joyousness of springtime which never lets anyone suspect the labors it has cost me.*

~Henri Matisse

## Helen Frankenthaler 1928-2011

An American abstract expressionist painter, Frankenthaler was a major contributor to the history of postwar American painting. The lyrically abstract painter whose technique of staining pigment into raw canvas helped shape an influential art movement in the mid-20th century became one of the most admired artists of her generation. As a whole, Frankenthaler's style is almost impossible to broadly characterize. As an active painter for nearly six decades, she went through a variety of phases and stylistic shifts. She was initially associated with abstract expressionism, but because of her focus on forms latent in nature, Frankenthaler is identified with the use of fluid shapes, abstract masses, and lyrical gestures.



*I'd rather risk an ugly surprise than rely on things I know I can do.*  
~ Helen Frankenthaler





*You have to know how to use the accident, how to recognize it, how to control it, and ways to eliminate it so that the whole surface looks felt and born all at once*

~Helen Frankenthaler





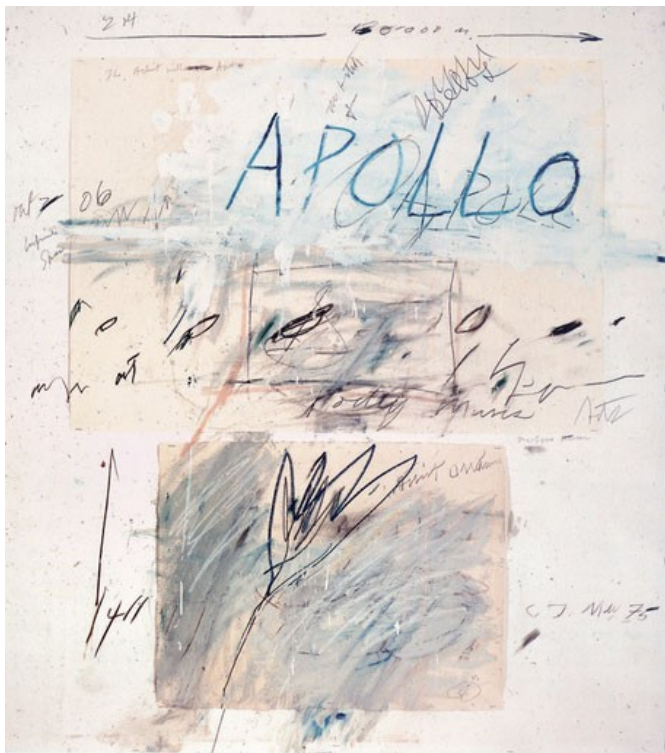
## Cy Twombly- 1928-2011

Twombly (pronounced Twum-blee) paintings are predominantly large-scale, freely-scribbled, calligraphic and graffiti-like works on solid fields of mostly gray, tan, or off-white colors.

Many of his later paintings and works on paper shifted toward "romantic symbolism", and their titles can be interpreted visually through shapes and forms and words. Twombly often quoted the poets as Stéphane Mallarmé, Rainer Maria Rilke and John Keats, as well as many classical myths and allegories in his works.



*I never really seperated painting and literature.  
~ Cy Twombly*





## David Hockney 1937-

Hockney is a draughtsman, printmaker, stage designer and photographer. An important contributor to the pop art movement of the 1960s, he is considered one of the most influential British artists of the 20th century. He is also one of the most versatile, always growing and moving in his expressions.

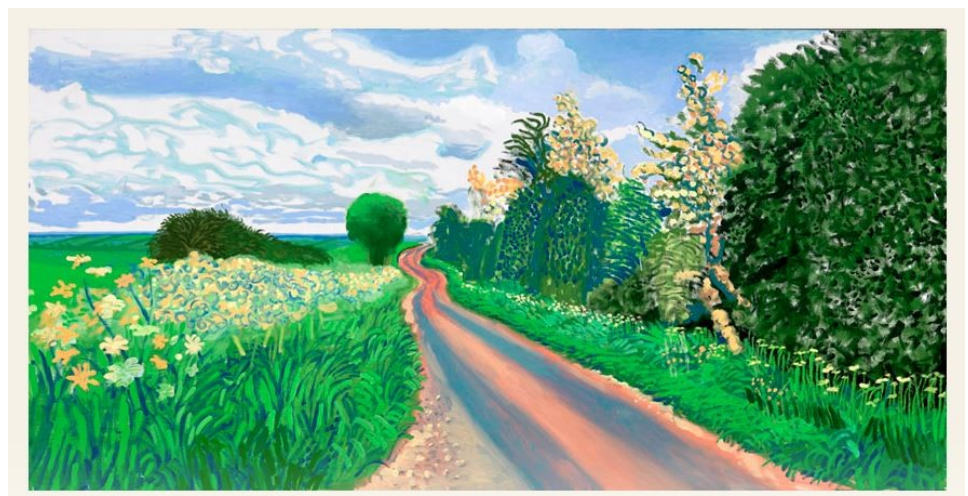
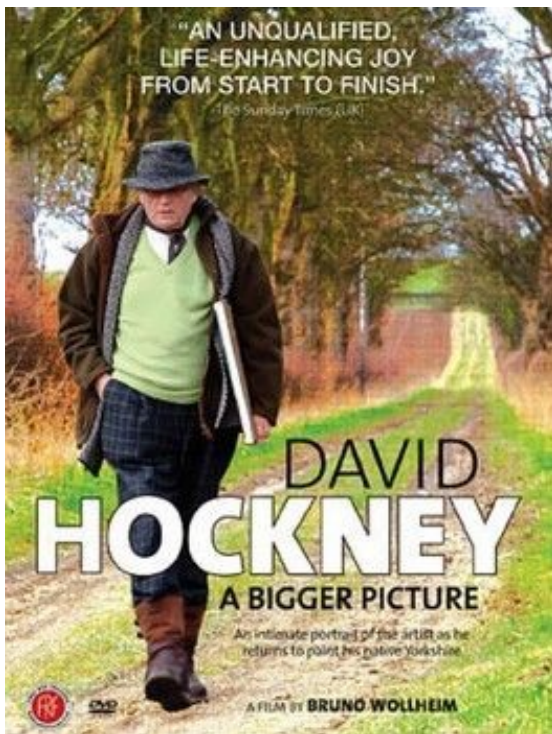
Born with synaesthesia, (a perceptual phenomenon in which stimulation of one sensory or cognitive pathway leads to automatic, involuntary experiences in a second sensory or cognitive pathway. Hockney sees synesthetic colors in response to musical stimuli. This does not show up in his painting or photography artwork, but is a common underlying principle in his designs for stage sets for ballet and opera, where he bases background colors and lighting on the colors he sees while listening to the piece's music.

In the early 1980s, Hockney began to produce photo collages, which he called "joiners". Using Polaroid snaps or photo lab-prints of a single subject, Hockney arranged a patchwork to make a composite image

In 2012, the Royal Academy presented *A Bigger Picture*, which included more than 150 works. The exhibition is dedicated to landscapes inspired by his native Yorkshire. There is a film available which features in depth interviews with Hockney.







*Looking at nature has now become an addiction:  
"I'm very touched by what Van Gogh said: he'd lost  
his father's faith, but he'd found another one in the  
infinity of nature."*

~David Hockney







## John Constable 1776-1837

Constable was an English Romantic painter. Born in Suffolk, he is known principally for his landscape paintings of Dedham Vale, the area surrounding his home — now known as "Constable Country" — which he invested with an intensity of affection. "I should paint my own places best", he wrote to his friend John Fisher in 1821, "Painting is but another word for feeling". Constable's usual subjects, scenes of ordinary daily life, were unfashionable in an age that looked for more romantic visions of wild landscapes and ruins. He was financially unsuccessful in his lifetime.



*When I sit down to make a sketch from Nature, the first thing I try to do is to forget that I have ever seen a picture.*

~ John Constable

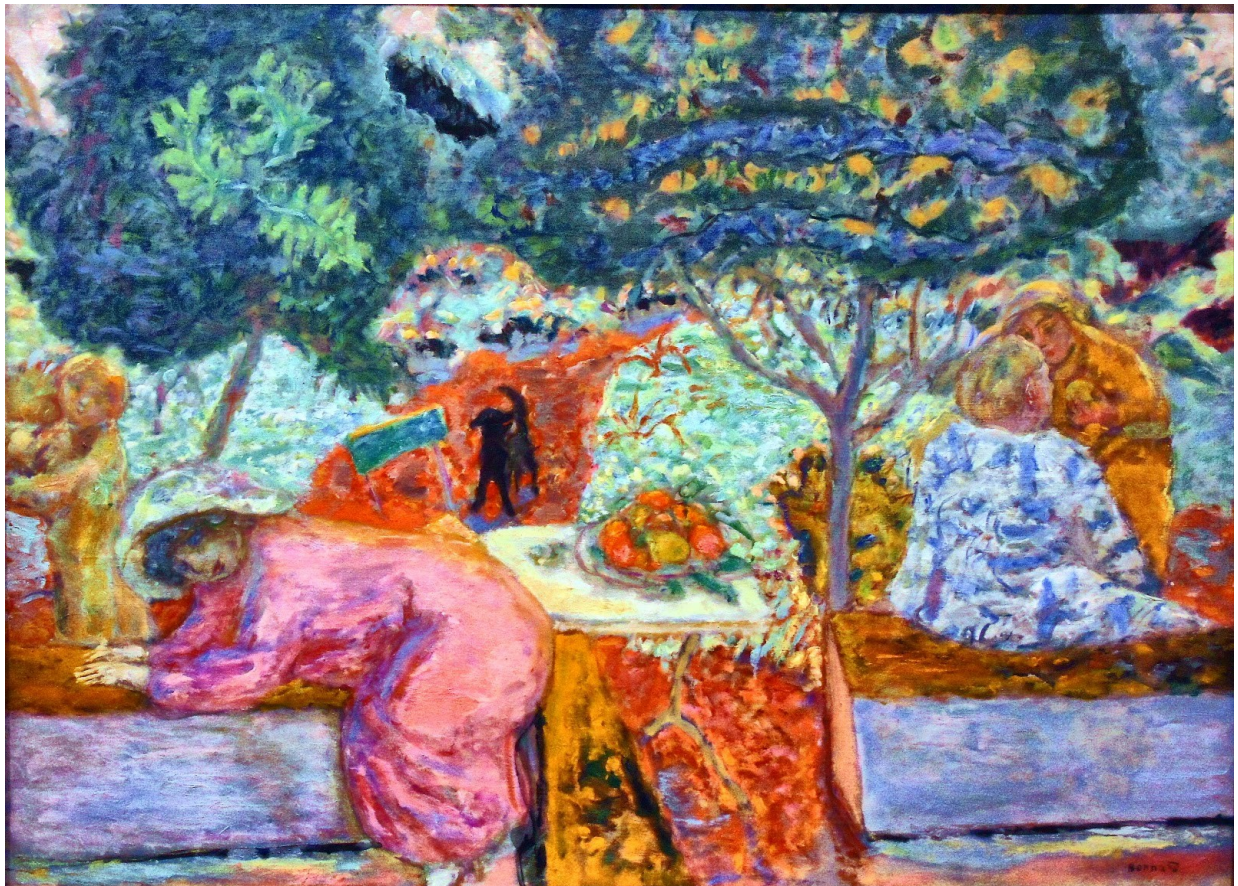
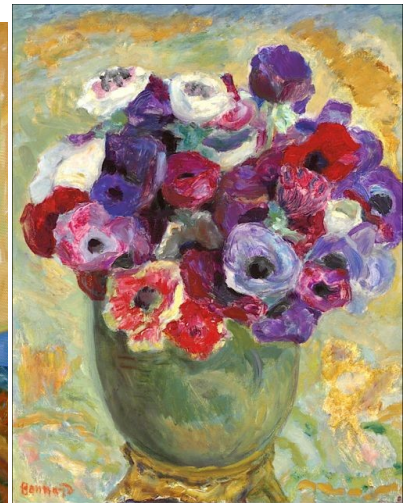
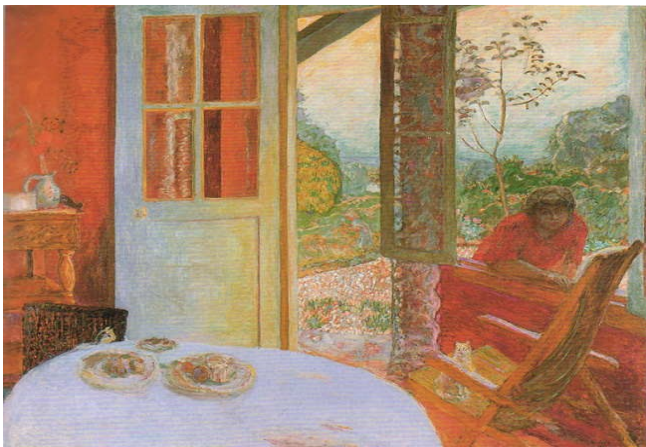






## Pierre Bonnard 1867-1947

Bonnard was a founding member of the Post-Impressionist group of avant-garde painters Les Nabis. Bonnard preferred to work from memory, using drawings as a reference, and his paintings are often characterized by a dreamlike quality. The intimate domestic scenes, for which he is perhaps best known, often include his wife. Bonnard has been described as "the most thoroughly idiosyncratic of all the great twentieth-century painters", and the unusual vantage points of his compositions rely less on traditional modes of pictorial structure than voluptuous color, and poetic allusions.





## William Merrit Chase 1849-1916

William Merrit Chase was an American painter, known as an exponent of Impressionism and as a teacher. His work has an Old Master quality to it. But his macho brushwork, sharp angles, vast empty spaces, and choice of subjects were modern for the day.

He taught a generation of American masters. He is also responsible for establishing the Chase School, which later would become Parsons New School for Design. Along with Robert Henri, who became a rival instructor, Chase was the most important teacher of American artists around the turn of the 20th century.



## Winslow Homer 1836-1910

He is regarded by many as one of the greatest American painters of the 19th century. Isolation and solitude were things he enjoyed later in his life, and he got that in this small seaside town.

He created monumental marine narratives and seascapes that investigate humankind's life-and-death struggles against the sea and the elemental power of nature. Painted with vigorous brushwork and closely observed realism, these late paintings capture the titanic force of waves crashing against the rocky shore in varying seasons and climactic conditions. He loved American themes of man versus nature and man's place in the natural world. These works are considered some of his most famous. Homer's oils and watercolors alike are characterized by directness, realism, objectivity, and splendid color. His powerful and dramatic interpretations of the sea in watercolor have never been surpassed and hold a unique place in American art.



*I regret very much that I have painted a picture that requires any description*

~ Winslow Homer

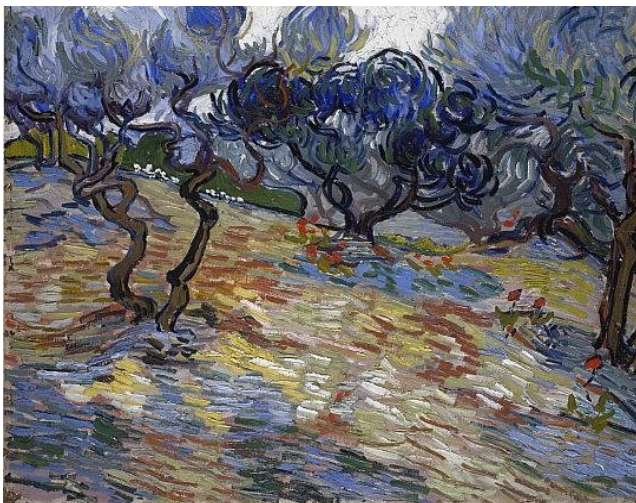






## Van Gogh 1853-1890

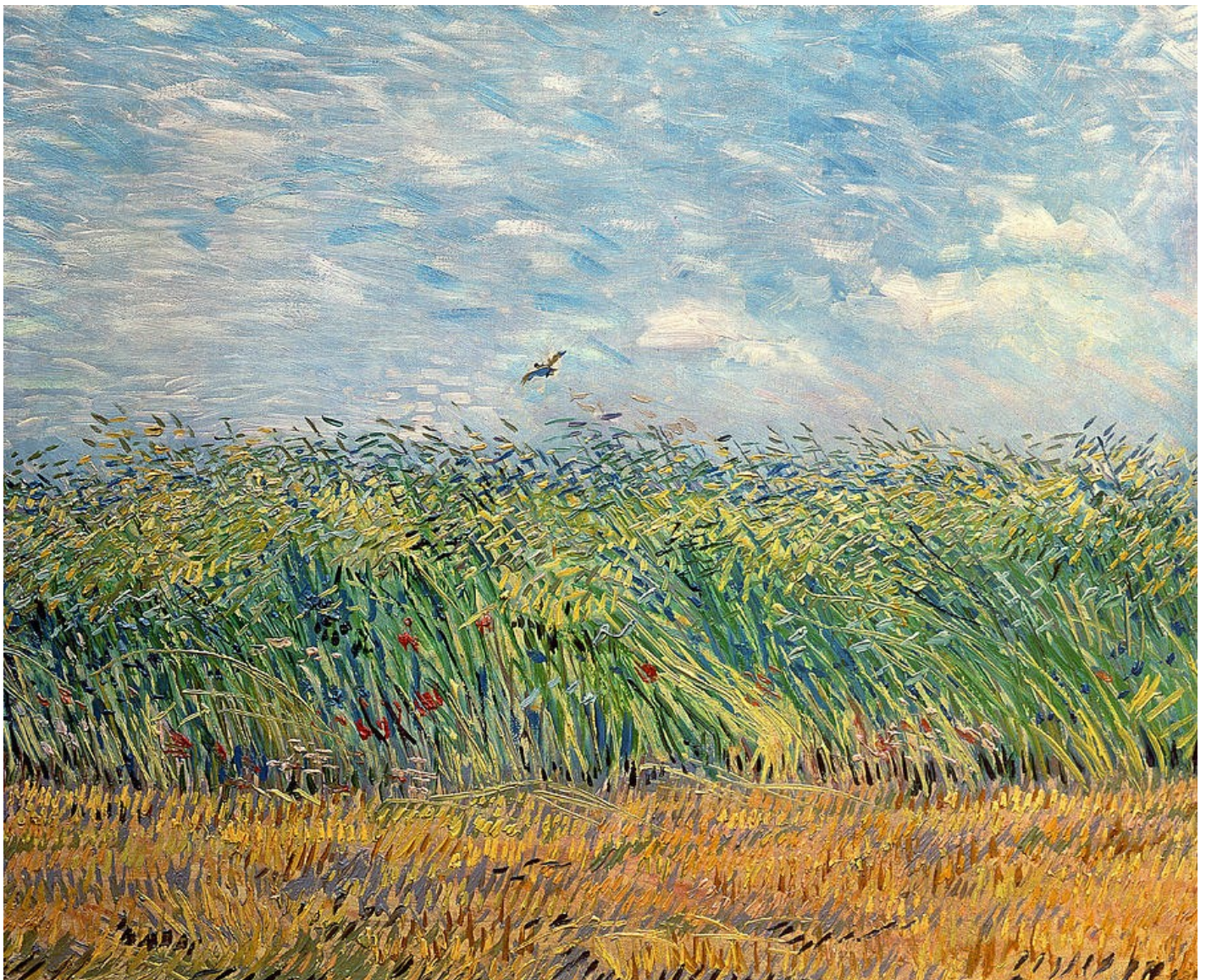
Van Gogh was a Dutch Post-Impressionist painter who is among the most famous and influential figures in the history of Western art. In just over a decade he created about 2,100 artworks, including around 860 oil paintings, most of them in the last two years of his life in France, where he died. They include landscapes, still lifes, portraits and self-portraits, and are characterized by bold colors and dramatic, impulsive and expressive brushwork that contributed to the foundations of modern art. His suicide at 37 followed years of mental illness and poverty. It's noteworthy that during his lifetime he did not sell a single painting. His bold, dramatic brush strokes expressed emotion and added a feeling of movement to his works. It's thought that he often used paint straight from the tube (impasto) and in the 70 days leading up to his death, he averaged one painting per day.





*Christ alone, of all the philosophers, magicians, etc., has affirmed eternal life as the most important certainty, the infinity of time, the futility of death, the necessity and purpose of serenity and devotion. He lived serenely, as an artist greater than all other artists, scorning marble and clay and paint, working in the living flesh. In other words, this peerless artist, scarcely conceivable with the blunt instruments of our modern, nervous and obtuse brains, made neither statues nor paintings nor books. He maintained in no uncertain terms that he made...living men, immortals.*

~Vincent Van Gogh





## J.E.H. MacDonald 1873-1932



MacDonald was a Canadian artist and one of the founders of the Group of Seven who initiated the first major Canadian national art movement. They produced paintings directly inspired by the Canadian landscape. They were highly influenced by Scandinavian Impressionist landscape paintings. They felt that the uninhibited approach to the northern Scandinavian wilderness could be adopted by Canadian painters to create on canvas a unique Canadian form of landscape art. MacDonald's palette was dark, tough and rich, his coloring was fiery and his style was elegant. His sense of composition was oriented towards his meditation on design, a subject in which he was a master. Like other members of the Group, he loved Chinese and Japanese art.





To paint from nature is  
to realize one's  
sensations, not to copy  
what is before one

J E H MacDonald





## Julie Heffernan 1956-

Julie Heffernan's work has been described by the writer Rebecca Solnit as "a new kind of history painting" and by *The New Yorker* as "ironic rococo surrealism with a social-satirical twist." Heffernan was raised as a Catholic, which influenced the theme of figurative imagery in her works. Her imaginative landscapes feature such elements as exploding cities, castoff gods and garbage, and falling torrents of animals, meteors and gemstones. These elements reflect her view of the world after "calamities". Her work certainly has a fantasy-like feeling but has a metaphorical meaning behind them dealing with issues that important to her.

Writing in *The New York Sun*, art critic David Cohen says of Heffernan's work in a 2007 exhibition: "These paintings are a hybrid of genres and styles, mixing allegory, portraiture, history painting, and still life, while in title they are all presented as self-portraits."





## John Wilde 1919 – 2006

Wilde (pronounced Wild-dee) was a painter, draughtsman and printmaker of fantastic imagery. Wilde had a deep interest in and empathy for nature and its cycle of generation, growth, decay and death. Vegetables, plants and flowers, both wild and cultivated, and animals, especially birds, are the subjects of many of his paintings and drawings. And, more than all, he always returned to the human form, whether invoking the whimsy of surreal situations or regaling in the complex and graceful discipline of fine anatomical drawing, of which Wilde is virtually nonpareil in his century. Often cryptic notes are included in drawings.





## Deborah Morrissey-McGoff

Viewing a painting by Cincinnati artist, Deborah Morrissey-McGoff is like stepping into a portal through which one enters a parallel universe. Her compositions with their elements of surrealism entice the viewer to unravel, imagine, or create the stories that lie within. “My technical process has evolved directly in response to my interest in Italian panel paintings of the early Renaissance,” says McGoff. McGoff is a self-taught painter. The elements that inhabit her paintings are objects she either loves or collects. They represent her inner world.





## Elizabeth Shreve



Elizabeth Shreve's rich paintings are replete with beautiful, painterly light that arises from her appreciation and analysis of day to day life. Figurative and psychological, they balance her inner conflict between art and psychology. After graduating from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1970, she lived and painted in New York for nine years. Her paintings became more intense when she returned to the Midwest to pursue a PhD in clinical psychology. After a decade of practicing psychology, she enrolled in the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and completed her MFA in painting in 1997. Since then, she has employed the figure as a means of emotional experience amidst panoramic Midwestern landscapes and in interior scenes abundant with delightful desserts. Shreve makes her home in rural Wisconsin where her neighbors and surroundings supply ample inspiration for her paintings.





