

Artists IN FOCUS

Berthe Morisot: Admired Artist



What We Learned:

- Berthe Morisot was born in France in 1841 to a wealthy family. She had two older sisters and a younger brother.
- When she was 11 years old, the family moved to Paris, where Morisot would live for the rest of her life.
- It was commonplace for wealthy girls to receive an art education as a hobby, but they were not expected to be professional painters. However, Berthe would go on to make painting her career.
- Many women had to choose between a career and marriage, but Morisot was married at the age of 33 to Eugène Manet, brother to Impressionist painter Édouard Manet. Perhaps because of his brother, he proved supportive, and she continued painting. Her brother-in-law introduced her to the Impressionists, and she became the first woman to join the group.
- At the time, women were not allowed in public without a chaperone, so Morisot painted the surrounding environment she had access to at her home. This included landscapes, domestic scenes, and paintings of her family and friends.
- When she died at the age of 54, her death certificate stated no profession even though she completed 860 paintings in her lifetime.



Art Activity: Flowers Like Morisot

Morisot often included flowers in her paintings. Although she did not focus on doing still lifes, *Dahlias* is one of her exceptions. Morisot used dynamic colors and choppy quick brushstrokes. She also used white to capture light in her paintings.

The students used tempera paints to create their own vase of flowers. Using black they outlined a vase, flowers, leaves and horizon line. Choosing bright colors, they painted the flowers in a circular motion. Several colors were overlapped using the lightest color first. White was also layered in to make tints of the various colors. The vase was then painted in a similar fashion. A dry brush technique was used for this project.



For Parents

Berthe Morisot was a female artist during a time when married women weren't permitted to have a professional career. She was the first female to join the Impressionist movement, and grew to be known as a pioneer in form and technique. The first Impressionist exhibition was in 1874, which is the same year she married Eugène Manet, brother to her artist friend Édouard Manet. Her husband was also an artist and supported her career. Their only child was Julie who became the subject in many of her paintings. Morisot exhibited in seven of the eight Impressionist exhibitions, and her paintings were given more positive reviews than her male counterparts. Although her paintings sold during her lifetime, she never received the attention she deserved. She recorded in her diary, "I don't think there has ever been a man who treated a woman as an equal, and that's all I would have asked for — I know I am worth as much as they are." Over the past decade, interest in Morisot and her art has revived, and her importance as a unique artist and influencer in the Impressionist movement is finally being realized.

Please note: As M&G's host location for *Homeschool Days*, Mack Library will feature books each month for parents to reference as resources. We hope these additional features will further support your teaching at home.

Connections at Home: Impressionism Project – Painting with Shaving Cream

SUPPLIES:

- Examples of Impressionistic Art (Manet, Monet, Morisot, Degas, Renoir, Cassatt)
- Thick Paper
- Shaving Cream
- Acrylic Craft or Tempera Paint
- Popsicle Sticks
- Large Paintbrushes

DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1: Mix the shaving cream with the paint using the popsicle sticks. Make vibrant colors.

STEP 2: After choosing a simple scene, begin painting. No need to draw first.

STEP 3: Use different techniques such as straight strokes, building up texture, swirling the paint or even using the popsicle sticks to make more texture.

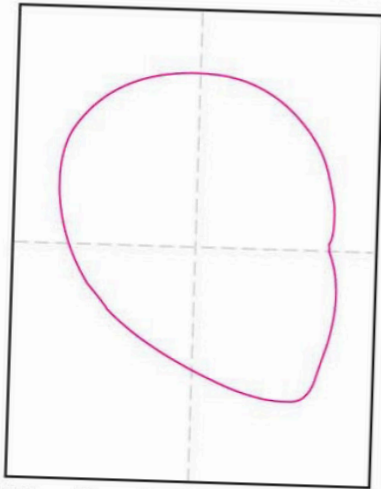
STEP 4: Allow it to dry.



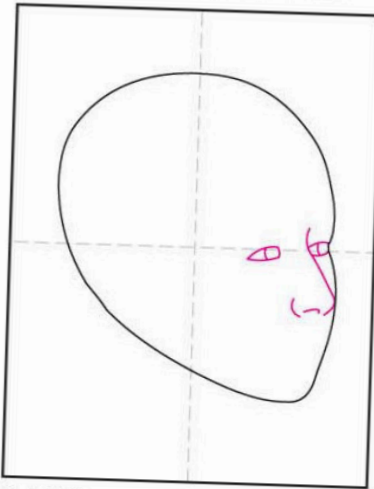
Simple Connections at Home: How to Draw like Berthe Morisot

SUPPLIES:

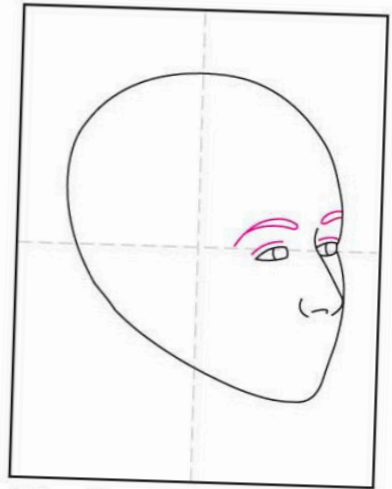
- Drawing Paper
- Colored Pencils



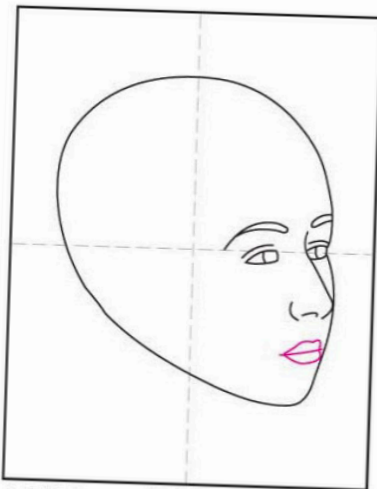
1. Draw the outer shape of the head.



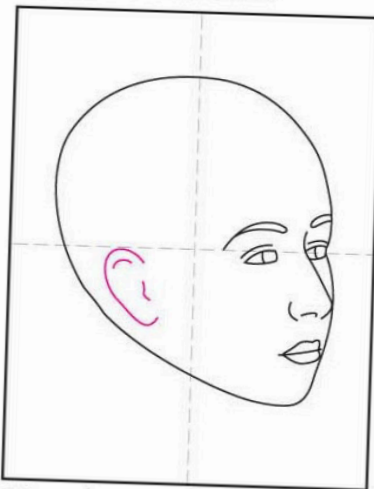
2. Add the eyes and nose on the right to start a 3/4 view portrait.



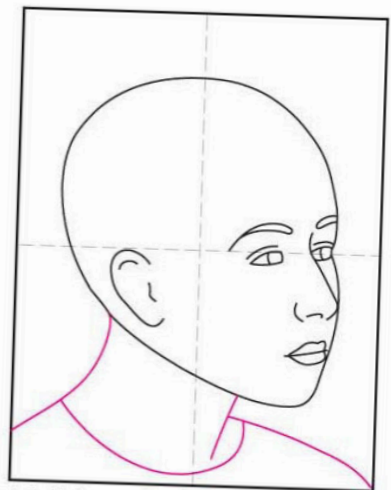
3. Draw the eyelids and the eyebrows.



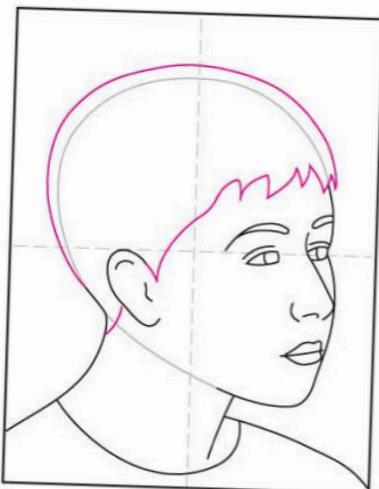
4. Add the mouth right under the nose.



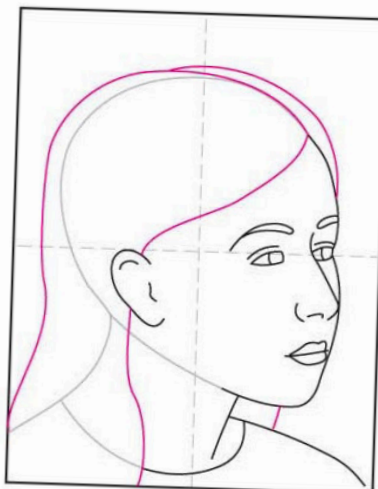
5. Draw the ear on the side of the head.



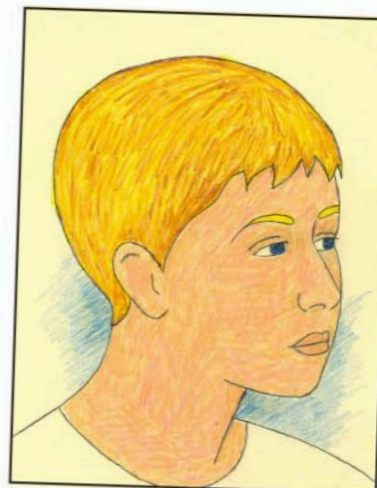
6. Add the neck and shoulders.



7. Draw hair around the head. Erase the gray lines. This is a short hair sample.



8. Long hair option. Add it around the head and erase the gray lines.



9. Color the skin and hair with colored pencils. Add a small shadow in the back.

Book Nook

Meet Berthe Morisot (Meet the Artist)
by Read With You Center for Excellence in STEAM Education



Additional Resources

To learn more about Berthe Morisot, the first female Impressionist, click on the links below:

- Watch a Kids Animated Short Story about the artist Berthe Monet:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-ek4hGqtK4>
- For a great, condensed biography of Morisot with lots of illustrations and pictures of her paintings visit: <https://jusclassical.com/berthe-morisot-biography-for-kids/>
- Find out more about Morisot as an Impressionist artist in this video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eb84Sm5LQrw>
- Follow a quick lesson on color from the Museum of Fine Art in St. Petersburg, Florida using Morisot's painting *Reading, 1888*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkkAfJg9q00>
- Discover 5 Fast Facts about Berthe Morisot from the National Museum of Women in the Arts:
<https://nmwa.org/blog/artist-spotlight/5-fast-facts-berthe-morisot/>
- 10 Things to Know about Berthe Morisot from Christie's:
<https://www.christies.com/en/stories/10-things-to-know-about-berthe-morisot-8c5e46a6c16e417c902cfff3e9054d23>
- What Is Impressionism? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJhOx10J5Fw>
- Impressionism for Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTElv8-OuXQ>

Due to the changing nature of web resources, M&G strongly urges you as the parent to preview these sites before your child accesses them. The fact that these sites are available on this handout does not imply that M&G endorses their content from the standpoint of morals, philosophy, theology, or scientific hypotheses.

M&G Educational Mission:

Through tours, events, and publications, the Museum & Gallery seeks to partner with educators in fulfilling all of the National Visual Arts Content Standards. By integrating art into the core curriculum, M&G's goals are to teach children to value the arts, to communicate through the arts, to become creative problem solvers through the inclusion of STEAM-related concepts and fully-developed STEAM units, to understand history and culture in light of the arts, to improve literary interest and understanding through visual storytelling, to critique the arts, and to develop an aesthetic awareness of the arts. Through fulfilling the mission, M&G is able to help develop citizens who have the ability to think, feel, and understand the world in which they live.

