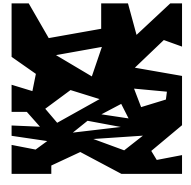


Post-Impressionism: Beyond Appearances

Young Visitor's Guide



اللوفا أبو ظبي
LOUVRE ABU DHABI



M
O Musée d'Orsay

FRANCE
MUSEUMS



Introduction

In the middle of the 1800s, a group of artists known as the *Impressionists* introduced a new way of painting. They used quick, small brushstrokes and vivid colours to capture the first impression of a scene, focusing on light and colour.

Later, in 1886, a variety of groups and solo artists that fell under the name *Post-Impressionism* emerged. These artists built on *Impressionism* but went beyond it in their exploration of form and colour, using different techniques to express their individual artistic views.

Learn about the beginnings and growth of *Post-Impressionism* to understand how this *innovative* group of artists created works that have had a significant effect on art history and paved the way for the arrival of various new art forms in the following years.

Instructions

1. Navigate the exhibition by following the artist's palette symbol below.
2. Use the numbered cards to guide you through each step of your journey.
3. Flip each card over to uncover fun facts and activities.

Let's begin!



Words to know

Art Critic: A person who looks at art and shares their opinions about it.

Cubism/Cubist: A style of art in which natural forms are broken up into geometric shapes (such as squares, triangles, or circles).

Impressionist/Impressionism: An art style from the middle of the 1800s in which the artist painted everyday scenes using quick brushstrokes and bright colours to capture moments and feelings, rather than every detail.

Innovative: An act of doing something new or different in a clever way.

Nabis: A group of French artists who used simple shapes, bold outlines, flat surfaces, and strong colours influenced by Japanese art.

Pointillism/Pointillist: A painting technique where artists use tiny strokes or dots of colour on a canvas, creating a blended effect when viewed from a distance.

Post-Impressionist/Post-Impressionism: An art movement covering a variety of styles that emerged after Impressionism in 1886. Artists painted in bold colours, used interesting shapes and new techniques to show their feelings and ideas.

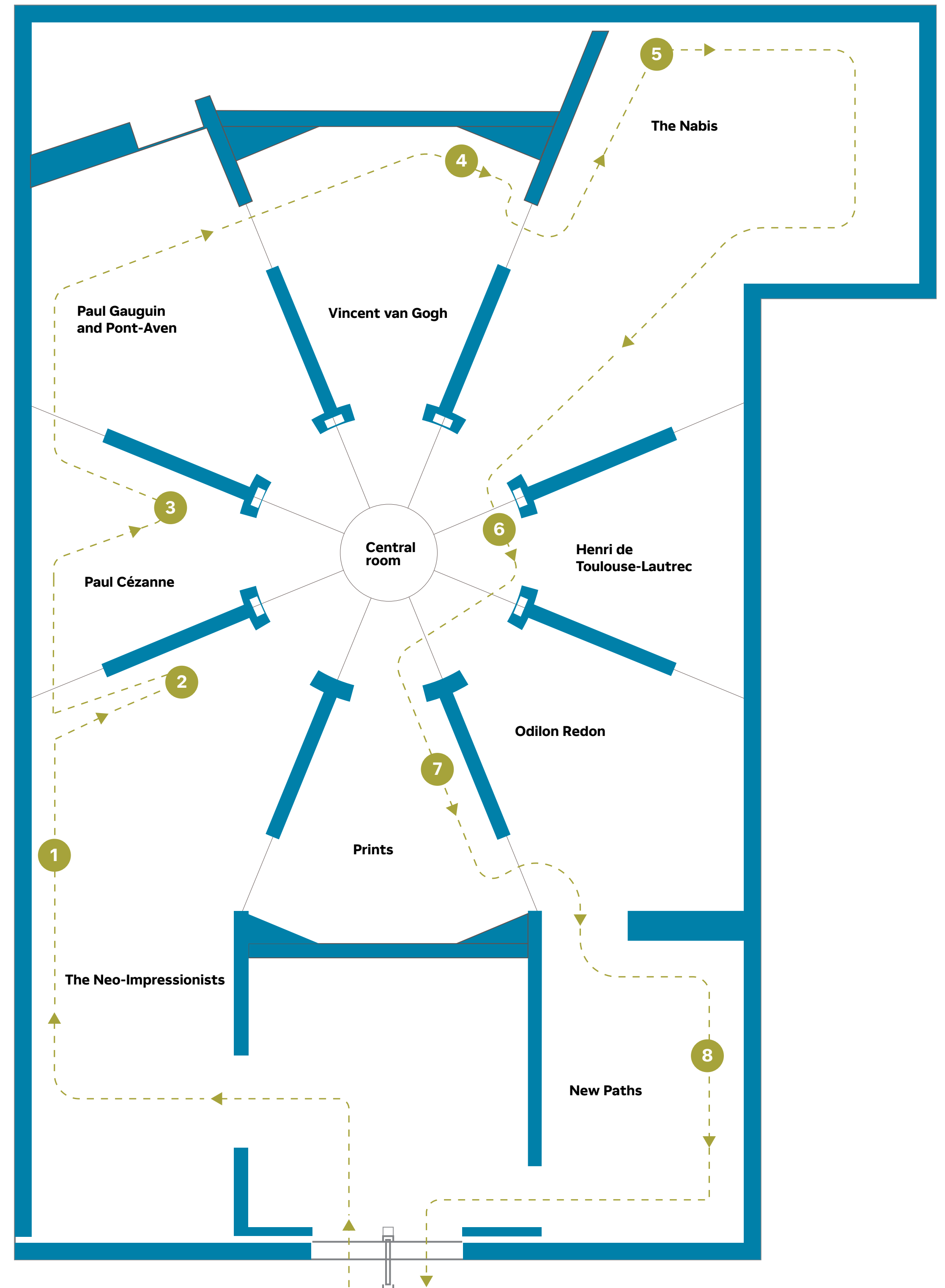
Salon(s): The main art exhibition of the French Academy of Painting and Sculpture at the time, held annually or bi-annually in Paris. It allowed artists to showcase their work to the public, critics, and potential patrons.

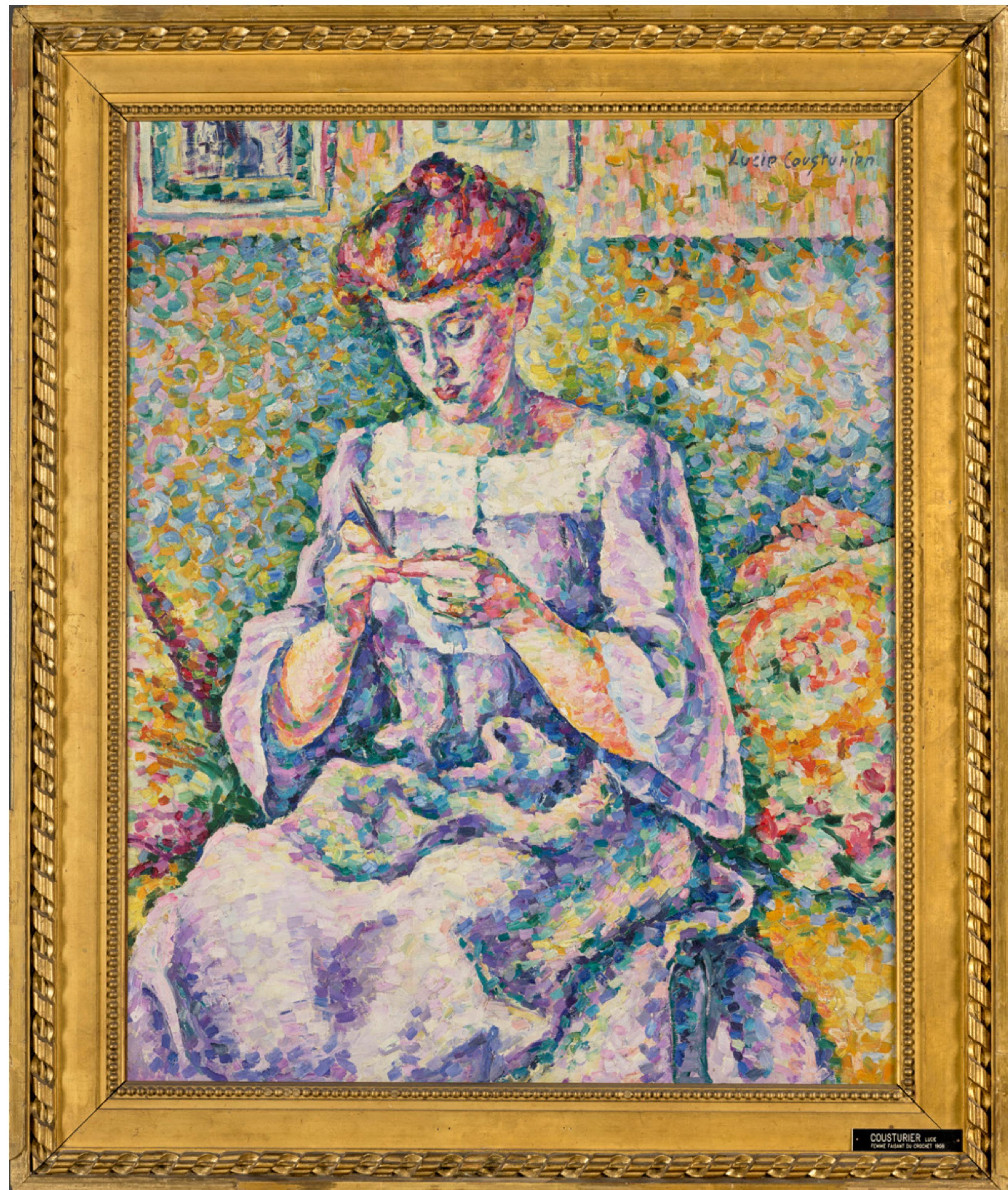
Symbolist/Symbolism: Artists who used colour and line expressively to create scenes with figures drawn from mythological or fantastical sources, aiming to express emotions.

Surrealist/Surrealism: A style of art inspired by dreams and hidden thoughts.

Exhibition map

This map shows the artworks' locations within the exhibition.





Lucie Cousturier (1876-1925), *Woman Crocheting*, Circa 1908, oil on canvas, Paris, Musée d'Orsay, RF 1977 121
Purchase, 1943
Photo © RMN-Grand Palais (musée d'Orsay) / Adrien Didierjean



Herni-Edmond Cross (1856-1910), *The Evening Air*, Circa 1893, oil on canvas, Paris, Musée d'Orsay, RF 1976 81
Photo © RMN-Grand Palais (musée d'Orsay) / Hervé Lewandowski

Lucie Cousturier's interest in painting began as a teenager and she went on to study under Paul Signac and Henri-Edmond Cross.

She became the first woman to specialise in the style of *pointillism*.

Unlike her mentors, Cross or Seurat, who mainly painted landscapes or outdoors scenes, she used the *pointillist* technique in an indoor setting.

Look

Look closely at this painting and notice the painter's choice of subject: a woman focused on a task. What is the woman doing? Why did the artist choose to focus on this type of activity?

(The artist captures the act of crocheting to show the beauty in simple, everyday life.)

Imagine

Now it's your turn!

Imagine you have stepped into the painting. Sit next to the woman and observe your surroundings. Describe the cozy indoor setting, the woman's appearance and posture, her crocheting, and the overall atmosphere of the room. Use vivid details to bring the scene to life.

Did you know?

Not only was Lucie Cousturier, known for her paintings but she also contributed significantly as an *art critic* and writer, particularly in promoting the work of artist Georges Seurat, which enhanced the understanding and appreciation of his art at that time.

Henri-Edmond Cross painted this artwork at the suggestion of his friend, artist Paul Signac, to celebrate their favourite place in the south of France.

He aimed to capture a calm, late afternoon atmosphere with gentle sunset colours, still figures, and balanced lines, creating the feeling that time had stopped for a moment. Cross later gifted the painting to Signac.

Look

Notice how the artist used repetitive shapes and a technique called *pointillism*, painting with many small dots to create a colourful mosaic. What colours do you see placed next to each other?

Write

Reflect on the calm scene and write a poem or a song that captures what you see and feel using the space below.

Did you know?

Cross' technique of painting with dots and strokes inspired many artists, including Henri Matisse. His method and his serene landscapes continue to be admired by many artists today.



Paul Cézanne (1839-1906), *Mont Sainte-Victoire*, Circa 1890, oil on canvas, Paris, Musée d'Orsay, RF 1969 30
Donation subject to usufruct by the granddaughter of Auguste Pellerin, 1969
Photo © RMN-Grand Palais (musée d'Orsay) / Stéphane Maréchalle

Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890), *The Bedroom at Arles*, 1889, oil on canvas, Paris, Musée d'Orsay, RF 1959 2
Transfer in application of the peace treaty with Japan, 1959
Photo © RMN-Grand Palais (musée d'Orsay) / Hervé Lewandowski

This painting by Cézanne represents Mount Sainte Victoire, in the South of France.

By repeatedly painting this subject, he was able to study and simplify it, capturing it from various viewpoints and angles.

His technique of recreating the mountain using geometric shapes helped pave the way for *Cubism*.

Look

What colours and geometric shapes can you identify? Now compare it to an image of a mountain, and reflect on how this painting is different from a real representation?

Imagine

Picture a natural scene such as a mountain or a forest and draw it using geometric shapes in the *Cubist* style!

Colour your shapes and share your artwork with a friend to show how this method alters our view of nature.



Did you know?

Among the 300 artworks created by the artist, 80 represented this natural wonder.

“The Bedroom at Arles” is one of Van Gogh’s most famous paintings.

He made three nearly identical representations of his bedroom in Arles, France. This one was destined for his family.

In a letter to his brother Theo, he explains how he made the painting look flat, like Japanese prints.

He liked the simple style of Japanese homes and wanted to show those feelings of calm and balance.

Look

Take a moment to observe the room. As an artist, it is not surprising to see that Van Gogh has six pictures hanging on his walls! Who do you think the two portraits are seen on the right wall? And the painting above his bed, what could it represent?

Now look at the furniture, the lines and the different colours. Vincent used straight lines and calming colours such as the pale lilac walls, blue basin, green windows, and the orange dressing table to create a feeling of absolute rest.

Draw

Looking at Van Gogh's use of colours and lines, how would you portray your own bedroom and favourite objects? Will you give your drawing to a family member too?

Did you know?

This version is the smallest of the three in the series and was a gift for his mother and sister, Willemina, to decorate their home.



Pierre Bonnard (1867-1947), *Under the Lamp*, 1899, oil on board, Paris, Musée d'Orsay, RF 1979 15
 Gift of Coprex S.A., in memory of Joseph Nash, 1979
 Photo © Musée d'Orsay, Dist. RMN-Grand Palais / Patrice Schmidt



Pierre Bonnard's paintbox, palette and brush box, Before 1947, wood, oil paint, Petit Palais, Musée des Beaux-arts de la Ville de Paris, Inv. PPO3342. Gift of Antoine Terasse, 1970
 © GrandPalaisRmn / Agence Bulloz

Pierre Bonnard's "Under the Lamp" shows the *Nabi* style. The *Nabis* were a group of French artists who used simple shapes, bold outlines, flat surfaces, and strong colours.

The group had two main styles: one which focused on religious art while the other showed everyday life scenes, like in this painting.

Look

Take a moment to see how Bonnard portrayed the people around the table and the lamp, making the atmosphere feel cozy. What small details do you see that make the setting feel warm and welcoming?

Imagine

If you were to recreate this scene with your family and your favourite food or objects on the table, what would you choose? Take a moment to imagine the scene and share your thoughts with your friends!

Did you know?

"Under the Lamp" shows a glimpse of Bonnard's personal life. Many of his paintings are inspired by his home and family. The homey setting and everyday activities show his love for quiet, personal moments.

Including the artists' palettes in the exhibition lets us see how they created their art. Seeing their creative process helps us better understand their finished paintings.

Pierre Bonnard was the co-founder of the *Nabis* group, and worked with simple forms and bright colours. People called him the "painter of happiness" because he painted everyday life with joy.

He was known to be a gifted observer with a great memory, as he mostly painted in his studio, focusing on traditional subjects like landscapes and portraits.

Look

Take a moment to observe the palettes of other artists in this space. How do they differ from Bonnard's choice of colours and placement of paint?

Let's discover!

Check out the bright colours on the artist's palette and see if they match the colours in his artworks in the exhibition. Take this challenge further by exploring the palettes of other artists in this section and see how their colours match their own artworks.

Did you know?

The invention of the paint tube in 1841 was a big deal for artists. It meant they could paint outside, which helped create *Impressionism*. Art historians consider the paint tube as an *innovative* invention in painting history! Even though Bonnard preferred working in his studio, portable paint tubes meant that he could also paint outdoors.



Odilon Redon (1840-1916), *The Spider*, 1887, lithograph, Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, RESERVE DC- 354 (5) -BOITE FOL
© BnF



Georges Hanna Sabbagh (1887-1951), *The Family: The Sabbaghs in Paris*, 1921, oil on canvas, Grenoble, Musée de Grenoble, MG 2346
© Ville de Grenoble / Musée de Grenoble-J.L. Lacroix

Odilon Redon, a *Symbolist* artist, used charcoal to create an imaginary drawing of a smiling spider.

While spiders often represent fear and mystery, in this artwork, the spider's smile makes it appear friendly and cute!

By combining these different ideas, the artist encourages viewers to look at spiders in a new way.

Look

This is no ordinary spider, take a closer look! How many legs does it have and how is it different from a real spider?

Draw

Imagine drawing your own fantastical spider or bug. Redon gave his spider extra legs and a smiling face. How will yours be different? Use your imagination and the space below for your unique creation.



Did you know?

Although, drawn over a 100 years ago, the smiling spider continues to be loved by its audience. This *Surrealist* artwork has left its mark on popular culture, influencing films, music, fashion, and digital art. For example, in Tim Burton's movie *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993) the main character reflects surreal qualities of Redon's artworks.

Georges Hanna Sabbagh was an Egyptian painter who studied in Paris, learning from famous artists like Paul Sérusier. He was one of the few Arab artists to exhibit his work in the prestigious *salons* of Paris during his lifetime.

He developed a unique style with thick, diagonal brush strokes. His favourite subject to paint was family life. Here he uses warm, inviting colours to show the closeness and comfort of family.

In his signature pose with a palette in his hand, we also see Sabbagh's cherished wife, the art historian Agnès Sabert, and their two sons.

Look and compare

The artist loved to paint his family, capturing them in their happiest moments. What similarities can you spot between this painting and the one next to it?

Snap it !

Let's make your own family portrait inspired by Georges Hanna Sabbagh! Consider how you'd position members of your family and which props would you include in the picture. Then, gather them for a photo session and capture the moment.


Did you know?

Sabbagh was sent to Paris to study law. However, his love for art made him change his studies and career.

Let's get creative

Now that we have discovered how artists in this exhibition used lines, colours, and shapes in their artworks, it's your turn to use the "artist's hand" device in the central room to paint your own *Post-Impressionist* artwork, have some fun expressing yourself. Don't forget to sign and download your creation!

Use the space below to draw or write a reflection about your visit.

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for drawing or writing a reflection about the visit.