

Cycle 2, Week 17- Morisot and Impasto

Materials:

- Heavyweight paper, printed with images below
- Tempera paints
- Joint compound (found at home improvement stores)
- Disposable bowls or plastic containers
- Paper plates
- Plastic spoons
- Q-tips
- Clean-up: cups, water, paper towels, tablecloths

1. Give an introduction to the artist Berthe Morisot. What kind of emotion do her paintings have? Happy? Sad? Calm? Wild? The Impressionists painted what they saw around them. What do her paintings tell us about her and her life? What kind of texture do you notice in the paint? (5 minutes)

Note: Like Mary Cassatt, Berthe Morisot was relegated to the category of "feminine" artists because of their usual subject matter — women, children, and domestic scenes. However, as a doctrinaire impressionist, Morisot painted what she saw in her immediate, everyday life. As a woman securely in the "haute bourgeoisie" she saw domestic interiors, holiday spots, other women, and children.
<http://www.arthistoryarchive.com/arthistory/impressionism/Berthe-Morisot.html>

2. Talk about the term "impasto" (a technique where the paint is applied in a thick, textured way). Explain that the students will be practicing this technique as they paint today. The result should be thick, textured, and bumpy.

3. Give each student a paper plate with the prepared paint colors already dolloped on. A parent can prepare these plates while you discuss the artist and technique.

4. Students each paint an image using the thick "impasto" paint and Q-tips. Encourage blending colors and playing with texture.