

Group 15 participatory activity

### **Identifying and reacting to brushstroke styles in Impressionist paintings**

**Theme:** Paint from Palette to Paper

Materials: Index cards painted with a variety of brushstroke styles (made by Josie)

1. Mark - Start group in G357 at Madonna and Child [1 minute]

Briefly note style, brushwork, use of paint in this work (leaves, flowers, skin, clothing, scenery) and transition to next object

2. Mark - Move group to G355 and gather at Dining Room [5 minutes]

Have them look first from a distance and then gather up close.

Compare and contrast brushstrokes/use of paint with previous painting.

What are some different brushstrokes you can see? Use words to describe.

How did artist use the application of paint to achieve different effects?

Briefly cover Impressionism/Post-Impressionism approach to painting.

(Other questions?)

Now let's do some more exploration of the Impressionist use of brushstroke in the next gallery with a little activity...

3. Josie - Lay out cards on bench [2 minutes]

Divide into 4-5 groups

Each group select one card - look at it, touch the paint

Focusing on that type of brushstroke, head into G351 and find a painting (we're going to stay in the east half of the gallery) that you think exhibits or evokes that type.

Discuss within your group your impressions of that artist's technique and the effect it has on the depiction of the subject

Anything surprise you?

No wrong answers, just your thoughts

We'll spend 5 minutes; stay by "your" painting and then we'll share a few thoughts

4. Groups split up and find a painting, discuss with each other [5 minutes]

We all circulate and participate in discussions as needed.

5. Meg - Let's wrap up the discussion now. [7 minutes]

Who would like to share the thoughts of their group?

1). Description of your brushstroke

2). What was your impression of that artist's technique with paint and the effect it has on the depiction of the subject?

Transition:

We've seen a variety of Impressionist paintings where paint is used to engage us with very visible brushstrokes in many shapes and sizes, in ways that cause us to be involved in visualizing the image. Next we'll move into Modernism and see a work in which paint was applied in a very different way.