

Tour Theme on Muses – Day in the Life of a Muse

This tour led to some very interesting discussions about what is a muse, different types of muses, sexual or nonsexual, men and women, perhaps places. There was discussion about artists who were muses for one another and their tempestuous relationships, some beautifully inspirational and some very sad.

Tiber Muse, 56.12 Discussion about what is a muse and the nine Greek muses.

<https://www.greekmyths-greekmythology.com/nine-muses-in-greek-mythology/>

Modigliani, Head 62.73

Anna Akhmatou is the model for Modigliani and his muse. She is a Russian poet/writer. She met Modigliani while on her honeymoon in Paris. They would spend much time in Luxemburg Garden reciting poetry to one another and flirting. They had tempestuous relationship. Modigliani died young.

<https://new.artsmia.org/stories/art-secrets-the-starfish-in-her-face/>

<https://new.artsmia.org/stories/red-and-hot-the-many-loves-of-modigliani/>

Matisse, White Plumes 47.41.

The woman in the painting is Antoinette Arnaud. She was very chic, had great panache. Matisse made the hat she is wearing himself. She was able to make it appear very chic. In contrast to Picasso, who treated women poorly, Matisse liked powerful women with force and character and treated them well. Matisse's models were much more than muses they were partners. They were treated with respect, worked very hard and paid well. There have been debates about the Matisse relationships with his models. Many believe they were platonic relationships. There is a quote by Matisse, "I never sampled anything edible that had served me as a model. Posing them made them different for me, from their equivalents on a restaurant table."

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/matisse-and-his-models-70195044/>

Picasso, Woman in Armchair, 1927 63.2

Olga Khokhlova is woman in painting. She was a Russian ballet dancer. They married in 1918 and had a child together, Paulo, in 1921. In 1927, the year this is painted, Picasso begins an affair with Marie Therese Walter. Picasso is painting his deteriorating relationship with Olga in this painting.

<http://www.anothermag.com/art-photography/8799/the-women-behind-the-work-picasso-and-his-muses>

<http://www.dailyartmagazine.com/picasso-and-his-women/>

Chagall, The Poet with the Birds 1911 61.36.7

This is painted two years after Chagall met Bella in Russia in 1909. He was very much in love with her. He was poor and she was from a better family. Chagall, in 1911, went to Paris to become a painter and to prove himself to be acceptable to her family. He returned in 1914 to Russia to marry Bella. They moved to St. Petersburg then the Russian revolution erupted and they could not leave. They had a baby, Ida, and finally left Russia in 1922. They made it to New York City before World War II. Many of Chagall's paintings show the joy of his love for Bella, his muse who provided beautiful inspiration, who died young, in 1944 of a throat infection.

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2016/may/27/marc-and-bella-chagall-the-flying-lovers-of-vitebsk-emma-rice>
<https://viola.bz/three-muses-of-marc-chagall/>

Andrew Wyeth, Christina Olson 1947

Wyeth painted many paintings of Christina Olson including the famous Christina's World at MOMA. Christina was a neighbor of Andrew Wyeth where he summered in Cushing, Maine. Christina had a degenerative muscle disease and would drag herself around on the ground in her later years. Quote by Wyeth, "I wanted to do justice to her extraordinary conquest which most would consider hopeless." "If in some small way I have been able to paint to make the viewer sense that her world may be limited physically but by no means spiritually, then I have achieved what I set out to do."

<https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-controversial-story-andrew-wyeths-famous-painting>

Édouard Manet, The Smoker 68.79 and Berthe Morisot, Nanny and Her Daughter

Berthe Morisot met Édouard Manet while painting at the Louvre. Both had shown at the Salon and Morisot began to visit to learn from Manet, who had great status as a painter. Morisot's mother would always chaperone. She came from an upper class family as did Manet and they had similar social circles. Manet and Morisot professionally encouraged one another. Manet painted many paintings of Morisot in a very personal way. Morisot later married his brother, Eugene Manet.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/when-berthe-morisot-met-edouard-manet-1307045.html>
<http://artvent-artventures.blogspot.com/2013/01/manet-and-morisot-tale-of-love-and.html>

Bonnard, Dining Room in the Country 1913 54.15

Woman in painting is Marthe de Meligny who he married, much later, in 1925. Bonnard was inspired by Marthe and included her in many paintings. They met on a Paris street and eventually moved to the house, Ma Roulotte in Vernonnet.

<http://blog.phillipscollection.org/2012/02/14/whats-your-name-again-the-love-story-of-pierre-and-marthe-bonnard/>

Kehinde Wiley, Santos Dumont-The Father of Aviation II

Kehinde Wiley has many muses. Often times they are young black men from the streets from all over the world in his "World Stage" body of work. He also has a series on young black women.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/meet-muses-behind-kehinde-wiley-s-portraits-n316721>
<http://www.skny.com/attachment/en/56d5695ecfaf342a038b4568/Press/56d56998cfaf342a038b6918>

Rembrandt, Lucretia

Rembrandt's love of Hendrickje Stoffels is shown in this painting as well as others that he painted of her.

Girodet, Portrait of Mlle. Lange as Danae 69.22

Mlle Lange is the anti-muse in this story.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/26/arts/design/26giro.html>

Lee Miller, Man Shaving 2006.86.7 Photograph

Man Ray, Lee Miller 1930 photograph

Lee Miller and Man Ray were both photographers and had an intense relationship. They were muses for one another.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/photography/8623206/Lee-Miller-and-Man-Ray-crazy-in-love.html>

<https://www.npr.org/2011/08/20/139766533/much-more-than-a-muse-lee-miller-and-man-ray>

Arnold Newman, Steiglitz and O'Keefe 1944 73.34 Photograph

Steiglitz and O'Keefe were artists when they met, he was 52 and she was 26 years old. They later married. She provided inspiration for his photographs of her in the early years. She found her inspiration and muse in the area around Santa Fe.

<http://www.phaidon.com/agenda/art/articles/2016/july/05/sex-stieglitz-and-georgia-o-keeffe/>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/stieglitz-in-focus-63795076/>

There are lots of other possibilities for muses throughout Mia, Rodin and Camille Claudel, Salvador Dali and Gaia. I am posting a few interesting articles about muses. The article on Maria Lani is quite interesting. I had not heard of her before.

<http://blog.bridgemanimages.com/artists-their-muses-the-women-behind-historys-greatest-paintings-revealed/>

<https://www.britannica.com/list/9-muses-who-were-artists>

<https://theculturetrip.com/europe/france/articles/10-astonishing-muses-who-deserve-a-place-in-art-history/>

<http://cargocollective.com/lackman/Art-in-America-Article-on-Maria-Lani>