

Family Activity: Reflections in Water

Provided by the Art Institute of Chicago Department of Museum Education

Introduction

In the painting *On the Bank of the Seine, Bennecourt*, 1868, Impressionist artist Claude Monet was interested in capturing reflections on a river. His future wife, Camille Doncieux, is the woman enjoying the view.

Discussion Questions

Look carefully at this work.

- What is reflected in the river?
- How do the artist's brush strokes and use of color suggest movement in the water?
- Where do you think the artist was when he painted this scene?
- Describe your feelings when you look at this image.

Activity

Create your own Impressionist reflections.

Materials Needed:

- Large bowl of water
- Paper
- Watercolors
- Paintbrush
- Cup of water

Steps:

1. Place a bowl of water near a window and see what it reflects when the water is still.
2. Stir the water gently with your finger and discover what happens to the reflection.
3. Paint a scene that shows a lake, pond, or river that reflects its surroundings. Will the reflections in your painting be still or wavy?