



European Masters

Edgar Degas

Study*ladder*

Edgar Degas

Hilaire-Germain-Edgar De Gas

Born: 19 July 1834

Died: 27 September 1917

Style: Impressionist

Degas was a French artist, well known for his painting, sculpture, drawing and printmaking.

Though his work crossed many stylistic boundaries, his work is considered to be Impressionistic in style. He is best known for capturing moments in everyday Parisian life and his series of paintings of dancers.

Though he only showed one sculpture in his lifetime, Degas made many wax sculptures from which bronze casts were made after his death.



*Self Portrait, by Degas, 1855–56. Oil on paper, laid down on canvas
40.6 x 34.3 cm (16 x 13 1/2 in.)
The Metropolitan Museum of Art*

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The Dance Class

Date Completed: 1873-75

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 85 x 75 cm (33 1/2 x 29 1/2 in)

Location: Musee d'Orsay, Paris, France.

Degas spent a great deal of time sketching and painting at the Paris Opera House. He watched the dancers rehearsing as well as performing. His ballet series is very famous. He made paintings, sketches and drawings of the dancers as well as sculptures.



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At the Races: Before the Start

Completed: 1885-1892

Medium: Oil on Canvas

Dimensions: 40.01 x 89.85 cm
(15.75 x 35.378 in)

Located: Virginia Museum of
Fine Arts, Virginia, USA

Degas captured the excitement of horse racing in many of his paintings and sketches. This one shows a group of horses assembling before the start of the race. Like a photograph, it shows a moment frozen in time.

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Ballet Dancer

Completed: 1876

Medium: Pastel on paper

Dimensions: 58 X 42 cm (23 5/8 x 17 3/8 in)

Located: Musee d'Orsay, Paris

This drawing of a dancer performing on the stage is one of many that he drew in the Paris Opera.

Degas was famous for his particular drawing style. His techniques showed movement in his drawings and captured the moment, giving the viewer a sense of being there amongst the action.

