

MODERN *Woman*

Daughters and Lovers 1850-1918

DRAWINGS FROM THE MUSÉE D'ORSAY, PARIS

TIMELINE

1840s

1848

The February Revolution forces the abdication of King Louis-Philippe and leads to the proclamation of the moderate regime of the Second Republic. On 10 December, Louis Napoléon Bonaparte (later Emperor Napoléon III) is elected President of the Republic by a large majority.

1849

Jean-François Millet goes to live in Barbizon, near Fontainebleau, where Théodore Rousseau has lived since 1847. They are joined by the landscape painters Narcisse Diaz de la Peña and Constant Troyon. With the Auberge Ganne, the town's museum, as its base, the Barbizon School is born.

The French Legislative Assembly adopts a policy of reaction, censoring the press and forbidding workers' strikes.

German revolutionary socialist Karl Marx publishes *Class Struggles in France*.

1850s

1850s

The streets of Paris are revitalised by Baron Georges Eugène Haussmann. Formerly narrow streets give way to wide, open boulevards, making it difficult for those protesting the regime of Napoléon III's Second Empire to erect barricades, and easier for the police to navigate the city.

1851

On 2 December, on the anniversary of the coronation of Napoléon I, and the victory at the Battle of Austerlitz, Louis Napoléon Bonaparte stages a coup d'état. On 22 December, he is sworn in as President of the Republic of France for a term of ten years.

1852

On 21 November, a plebiscite confirms the imperial reinstatement of Louis Napoléon, who becomes Napoléon III, Emperor of France, 'by the grace of God and by the will of the nation'.

Merchant Aristide Boucicaut opens Le Bon Marché, which he transforms into the largest department store in Paris.

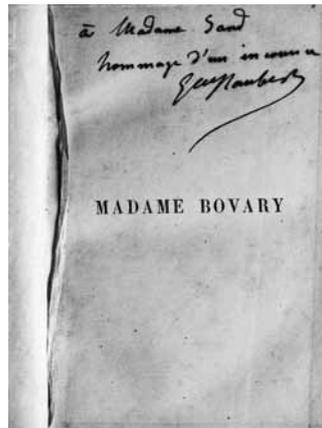
1857

'O dangerous woman, O seductive clime! Will I adore as well your snow and your frost? and can I eke out from implacable winter pleasures sharper than ice and iron?'

Charles Baudelaire, *Les Fleurs du mal* (*The Flowers of Evil*), 1857



The Imperial family, Napoléon III / photomontage dated 26 August 1872 / Image courtesy: RMN-GP / Franck Raux



Gustave Flaubert's dedication to George Sand on a copy of *Madame Bovary*, c.1856 / Image courtesy: RMN / Agence Bulloz / Musée Carnavalet, Paris

1853

On 21 January, Napoléon III marries Eugénie de Montijo.

On 9 June, a law is passed creating a retirement fund for French state employees.

1854

Photographer André Disdéri opens a studio in Paris, and he files a patent for 'cartes de visite', small-format photographs printed in large quantities.

France sides with England against Russia in the Crimean War.



Charles Baudelaire, date unknown / Photograph: Nadar (atelier de) / Image courtesy: Médiathèque de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine, Paris / Dist. RMN / Atelier de Nadar

1855

The first Exposition Universelle is held, which is also the inaugural Parisian event.

1856

On 16 March, Louis Napoléon, Prince Imperial — the only child of Napoléon III — is born.

In serial form, Gustave Flaubert's novel *Madame Bovary*, with its tales of adultery, unleashes a scandal that leads to a court case.



The first Exposition Universelle in Paris, 1855 / Image courtesy: RMN / Musée d'Orsay / Hervé Lewandowski

1857

Charles Baudelaire's *Les Fleurs du mal* (*The Flowers of Evil*) is brought before a magistrate and the case ends in a verdict for indecency against the author.

The first pavilions of Les Halles, Paris's main marketplace, are built in the centre of the city. Architect Victor Baltard uses iron and glass for a strictly utilitarian architecture which was unprecedented in France.

1859

Jean-François Millet paints *The Angelus*, portraying the solemnity of daily peasant life.

Eugène Boudin, Johan Jongkind, Jean-Baptiste Isabey and Claude Monet congregate to paint at Honfleur in Normandy.

In England, naturalist Charles Darwin publishes *The Origin of Species by Natural Selection*, which rapidly achieves notoriety for its apparent challenge to religious tenets.

1860s

1863

'No doubt Woman is sometimes a light, a glance, an invitation to happiness, sometimes just a word; but above all she is a general harmony, not only in her bearing and the way in which she moves and walks, but also in the muslins, the gauzes, the vast, iridescent clouds of stuff in which she envelops herself'

Charles Baudelaire, *Le Peintre de la vie moderne (The Painter of Modern Life)*, 1863

1860

Marie Bracquemond, a promising young student of the celebrated painter Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, notes in a letter:

The severity of Monsieur Ingres frightened me . . . because he doubted the courage and perseverance of a woman in the field of painting. He would assign to them only the painting of flowers, of fruits, of still lifes, portraits and genre scenes.

Abraham Lincoln is elected President of the United States.

1861

The painter and engraver Louis Martinet and Théophile Gautier founded the Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts, breaking with the official Salon. Édouard Manet and Eugène Delacroix are co-founders.

1863

Édouard Manet's *Le déjeuner sur l'herbe (The luncheon on the grass)* is the centre of a critical storm at the Salon des Refusés for its controversial depiction of a nude woman among clothed men.

1864

The right to strike is recognised in France.

The first edition of Larousse's *Grand dictionnaire universel du XIXe siècle (Great Universal Dictionary of the 19th Century)* is published.

Édouard Delamare-Deboutteville invents the first vehicle fuelled by petrol.

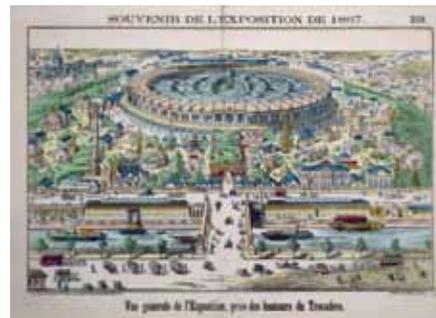
1865

The value of bank cheques is legally recognised in France.

Painted in 1863, Manet's *Olympia* — the depiction of a reclining nude modern courtesan in a pose and setting referencing Titian's *Venus of Urbino* 1538 — is exhibited in the Salon.

1867

On 1 April, the second Exposition Universelle in Paris opens on the Champ de Mars adjacent to where the Eiffel Tower will be constructed. The exhibition of fine arts is a triumph of eclecticism. Gustave Courbet and Manet show their work independently of the main exhibition.



Souvenir poster from the second Exposition Universelle in 1867, Paris / Image courtesy: RMN / Agence Bulloz

The Duruy law is passed affirming the secularisation of teaching in public schools, which encourages free education in France.

The French primary school certificate is instituted.

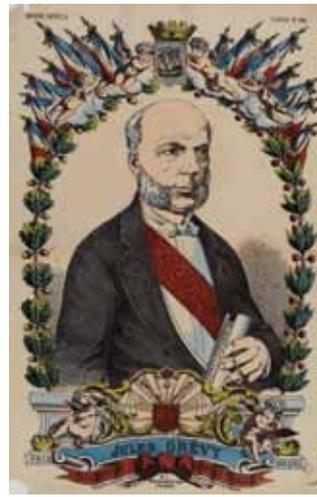
1869

Eva Gonzalès meets Édouard Manet, and becomes his student, model and friend.

La marche des Marseillais, date unknown / Artist: Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle / Image courtesy: Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris / RMN / Agence Bulloz

Jules Grévy, date unknown / Hagenenthal (printer, bookseller, publisher) in Post-à-Mousson / Image courtesy: RMN-GP / Franck Raux / Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée

Nano, 1877 / Artist: Édouard Manet (1832-83) / Image courtesy: BPK, Berlin, Dist. RMN, Kunstthalle, Hamburg, Germany



1870s

1870

France is at war with Prussia, with Paris under siege by the Prussians, following the defeat at Sedan. The Third Republic is proclaimed.

1871

On 18 January, the German Empire is proclaimed in the Hall of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles. The peace treaty strips France of the territory of Alsace-Lorraine and imposes heavy reparations.

The Paris Commune is proclaimed on 18 March; the insurgents try to install a socialist, revolutionary program. Between 21 and 28 May, a week of bloodshed effectively ends their experiment, and the Commune is crushed by the emergent Republic.

Émile Zola publishes *La Fortune des Rougon*, the first volume of his cycle of novels known as *Les Rougon-Macquart*. Arthur Rimbaud writes his poem *Le bateau ivre* (*The drunken boat*).

1872

In France, compulsory national service is enforced; the period of service is five years, although numerous exemptions and irregularities are involved.

1873

On 24 May, supported by the monarchists, Marshal Mac-Mahon replaces Adolphe Thiers as President of the Republic.

1874

The first impressionist exhibition is held in Paris at Nadar's studio at 35, Boulevard des Capucines, featuring works by Edgar Degas, Berthe Morisot, Camille Pissarro, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Alfred Sisley and Monet, whose painting *Impression: sunrise* 1872 gives rise to the term 'Impressionism'.

Berthe Morisot marries Eugène Manet, brother of Édouard Manet.

1875

On 24 and 25 February and 16 July, constitutional laws are passed in France which entrench the Third Republic and parliamentarianism.

1876

The second impressionist exhibition is held in Paris at the gallery of Paul Durand-Ruel, at 11, rue le Peletier, and features the work of 20 artists.

1877

The third impressionist exhibition is held in Paris, at 6, rue le Peletier, with 18 participants, and was the first to be labelled by the artists themselves as 'Impressionist'.

1878

The third Exposition Universelle in Paris occupies the Champ de Mars and the hill of Chaillot.

American Thomas Edison invents the electric light.

Exposition Universelle of 1878, after 1878 / Peterin Printing (founded 1736) / Image courtesy: Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée / RMN / Jean-Gilles Berzot



1879

The Federation of the Socialist Workers of France is inaugurated at a congress in Marseilles.

Marshal Mac-Mahon resigns and Jules Grévy is elected President of the Republic.

La Marseillaise becomes the French national anthem.

The fourth impressionist exhibition is held at 28, Avenue de l'Opéra, Paris.

Encouraged by her close friend Edgar Degas, Mary Cassatt begins exhibiting with the Impressionists and receives critical praise for painting subjects that were 'appropriately' feminine, such as women taking tea and crocheting.

1880s



Nellie Melba as Ophelia in the opera *Hamlet* by Ambroise Thomas, c.1889-90 / Photographed Benque, Paris / Creator: Benque & Cie / Image courtesy: Mitchell Library [P1/1262], State Library of NSW

1880

'She affected the style of a respectable woman, with most distinguished ways, just to astonish every one and to prove those idiots that, when she liked, not one of them could come up to her...'

Émile Zola, *Nana*, 1880

1880

The French Republic inaugurates 14 July as a national public holiday.

In France, Minister Jules Ferry formally proclaims a law for the secondary education of girls.

Émile Zola publishes his novel *Nana*, following the life of Parisian prostitute Nana Coupeau.

The fifth impressionist exhibition is held at 10, rue des Pyramides, Paris.

1881

As a result of the Ferry law, primary schooling becomes free in France. The following year, education is made compulsory and public teaching is confirmed as a secular practice.

The sixth impressionist exhibition is held at 35, Boulevard des Capucines, Paris.

1882

The seventh impressionist exhibition is held at 251, rue Saint-Honoré, Paris.

1883

Manet dies on 30 April, at the age of 51, from untreated syphilis and rheumatism. Gonzalès dies in Paris three weeks after giving birth to a son, soon after the death of Manet.

1884

On 21 March in Paris, the Waldeck-Rousseau law recognises professional associations (unions) and their federations.

Divorce is legalised in France.

1886

Attracted by the contemporary interest in a pastoral way of life, Émile Bernard regularly takes his family on holiday (1886-93) to Saint-Briac sur Mer, a small Breton village. His peasant subjects, flat patterning, and irrational space and colour inspired Paul Gauguin, with whom he worked between 1888 and 1891.

The eighth and final impressionist exhibition is held at 1, rue Laffitte, Paris, after which the group disperses.

1889

The fourth Exposition Universelle in Paris opens, with a 300-metre high tower as the centrepiece; designed by Gustave Eiffel, the Eiffel Tower is intended to be a temporary monument.



A drawing by Henri Toussaint (1849-1911) of the Eiffel Tower (which opened in 1889) for the Exposition Universelle in 1900 / Image courtesy: RMN (Musée d'Orsay) / Hervé Lewandowski

In France, compulsory military service is reduced to three years.

Australian opera singer Dame Nellie Melba makes her Paris opera debut, singing the role of Ophelia in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

Louise Breslau wins a gold medal at the Exposition Universelle, the first foreign woman to be so honoured.

1890s

1890

May 1 becomes a French public holiday, known as Labour Day.

1891

The Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts is reinvigorated by a group of artists including Louise Breslau, Carolus-Duran and Henri Gervex, decisively ending the domination of the official Salon.

1892

In France, child labour laws are passed ruling that children under the age of 18 can work no more than 10 hours in a day.

1893

In Paris, Captain Alfred Dreyfus of the French army is arrested and condemned for spying, causing a wave of anti-Semitism to sweep France.

French President Sadi Carnot is assassinated and Jean Casimir Périer is elected.

New Zealand becomes the first country in the world to grant women, including Maori women, the right to vote in parliamentary elections.

1895

Félix Faure is elected President of the Republic of France.

The Constitution of the General Confederation of Labour, France's first confederation of trade unions, is initiated.

The Lumière brothers, Auguste and Louis, patent the *cinématograph*, the equipment used to show moving pictures; on 28 December, for the first time, a series of short films is exhibited to a paying audience in the basement of the Grand Café, Paris.

1897

In Paris, women are admitted to the state-sponsored École des Beaux-Arts. The first ten female students are admitted after a protracted effort by reformists, and are initially taught separately from their male counterparts and excluded from painting and life-drawing classes.



Menu for 3 October 1897 for Mr and Mrs Bourges.
1897 / Artist: Henri Margat (aka) Henric (1857-1933) /
Image courtesy: RMN (Musée d'Orsay)



'Lady voters' approach the polling booth at Drill Hall in Rutland Street, just off Queen Street, Auckland, 8 December 1899 / (Photograph unknown) / Image courtesy: Sir George Grey Special Collections, ref. no. 7-A12353, Auckland Libraries

1899

Victor Loubet is elected President of the Republic of France.



Actress Sarah Bernhardt in the title role of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* / Image courtesy: Hulton-Deutsch Collection/CORBIS

1900s



Grand Prix poster, 1900 / Image courtesy: Swim Ink 2, LLC/ CORBIS

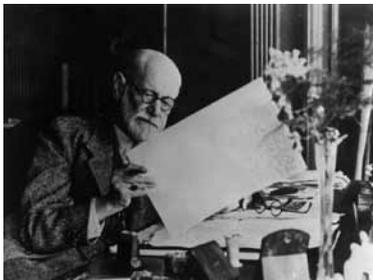
Military display in the Gallery of Machines at the fifth Exposition Universelle in 1900, Paris / Photographer: Lemoine Henri (1848-1924) / Image courtesy: RMN (Musée d'Orsay) / Hervé Lewandowski



1900

Technological innovations dominate the fifth Exposition Universelle in Paris: electricity, cinematography, automobiles and reinforced concrete constructions. Also in Paris, the first Metro line is opened between Porte de Vincennes and Porte Maillot, featuring distinctive Art Nouveau station entrances designed by Hector Guimard.

Austrian physician Sigmund Freud publishes *The Interpretation of Dreams*, marking the birth of psychoanalysis.



Sigmund Freud in his office, 1930 / Image courtesy: BPK, Berlin, Dist. RMN

The International Socialist Congress is held in Paris.

Failing eyesight severely curtails Mary Cassatt's work after 1900. She gives up printmaking in 1901, and, in 1904, abandons painting.

1901

Australia celebrates Federation. Sir Edmund Barton becomes Prime Minister following the first federal election.

1902

Australia gives non-Indigenous women both the right to vote in federal elections and the right to be elected to federal parliament.

1904

Jean Jaurès founds the daily French Communist newspaper *L'Humanité*.

The length of the French working day is reduced to ten hours.

1905

On 5 January, two years after the formation of the Queensland Women's Electoral League, the Electoral Franchise Bill is introduced into the Legislative Assembly to give Queensland women the right to vote in state elections; they first go to the polls in 1907.

On 9 December, Aristide Briand introduces a law in French parliament proposing the separation of church and state.

Compulsory military service is reduced to two years in France.

1906

Respite from work — in the form of a recognised weekend — becomes a compulsory condition of employment in France.

1907

Australian swimmer Annette Kellerman is arrested on Boston's Revere Beach for indecency; a black, skin-tight unitard exposes most of her neck, chest and legs.



Australian swimmer Annette Kellerman being arrested on Boston's Revere Beach for indecency / Image courtesy: Austral International Press Agency

1909

Louis Blériot is the first to cross the English Channel by plane.



Delegates to the Australian Women's Conference in Brisbane, 1909 / Image courtesy: State Library of Queensland

1910s

1910

Fashion designer Coco Chanel opens a millinery shop in Paris.



Coco Chanel, 1938 / Photographer: François Kollar (1904-1979) / Image courtesy: Ministère de la Culture - Médiathèque du Patrimoine, Dist. RMN / François Kollar

1911

The first International Women's Day is observed in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland with rallies and demonstrations.

1912

Composer Arnold Schoenberg presents his melodrama *Pierrot Lunaire* in Berlin and formulates the principles of atonal music.

Actor Charlie Chaplin creates the character of the Little Tramp.

Maternity allowance for non-Indigenous women is introduced in Australia.

1913

The Australian Capital Territory is created out of New South Wales in 1908, with the federal capital named Canberra established in 1913.

1914

On 28 June in Sarajevo, the Archduke Franz-Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, is assassinated. As a result of the alliances of European states, this event leads to the outbreak of World War One.

Some 2139 women served with the Australian Army Nursing Service in World War One; 130 worked with the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service while 423 served in Australian hospitals; 23 of these women died in service during the war.



British suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst being carried by an officer, June 1914 / Image courtesy: Bettmann/CORBIS

1913

'Women have found a new kind of self-respect, a new kind of energy, a new kind of strength...'

Emmeline Pankhurst, *Freedom or Death* speech, 1913

1918

11 November is World War One armistice.

Women are granted equal voting rights in the United Kingdom; equal voting rights are not bestowed upon women in the United States until 1920, or women in France until 1944.