



Edgar Degas

Edgar Degas was born in France in 1834. Though he showed artistic talent at a very young age, his father wanted him to have a more conventional and financially secure life. At his insistence, Edgar started law school, but he didn't want to be a lawyer. Edgar appealed again to his father, who finally agreed to help his son pursue his own path.

Edgar studied painting by going to a famous art museum in Paris called the Louvre and making copies of the paintings there. He traveled to Italy and studied art by Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci. In 1859, when he returned to Paris, he submitted some of his work to the Salon, the official art exhibition in France, and was rejected.

Edgar kept painting, and he became a famous French artist. He was one of the Impressionists, a group of 19th century artists who painted with special attention to light and color. This movement got its name from a critic who said that their paintings were more like "impressions" than finished works.

Unlike other Impressionists, which included Claude Monet, Pierre Renoir, and Camille Pissarro, Degas wanted his paintings to be realistic. He captured moments of ordinary life in a realistic way. While most of the impressionists were painting landscapes and outdoor scenes, Degas was drawn to ballet dancers. Though the Salon rejected his work during his lifetime, today Degas' paintings can be seen in art museums all over the world.

1. Degas' father wanted him to be a _____.
2. Degas as part of the art movement known as the _____.
3. Degas is most famous for painting _____.
4. Degas was _____ by the Salon.
5. Degas wanted his painting to be _____.