

## Innsbruck Castle Courtyard

by Albrecht Dürer

Dürer was one of the earliest pioneers of modern watercolor paints. He was also a master draftsman as you can see from the excellent perspective and proportion he gives these buildings. This scene is from somewhere in Italy when Dürer went there to draw and paint. This was painted in 1494. It is watercolor on paper.



## Ivory Billed Woodpecker

by John James Audubon

This was painted between 1837 and 1828 and included in Audubon's famous *Birds of America* book. Audubon's highly detailed and lifelike bird paintings were done with watercolor and sometimes charcoal for details. When they were first printed they were engraved and then hand colored assembly-line style by teams of artists.





## Eruption of Vesuvius

by J.M.W. Turner

This was painted in 1817 with watercolors and ink. Turner was primarily known as an oil painter, but he was also one of Britain's finest watercolor painters as well. He favored landscapes, often with a good bit of drama, like this scene of an erupting volcano. At the time this was painted Mt. Vesuvius in Italy had been undergoing tremors and eruptions for twenty years. Turner was intensely interested in the geology of the earth. He had not seen this mountain in person at the time of the painting. The form of the mountain and shape of the bay is probably copied off of another artist's work.



## Rouen

by Richard Parkes Bonington

This is watercolor on paper, done in 1825. The artist was English, but moved to France as a young man, living there for the rest of his life. This is a scene of the waterfront in Rouen, France. The watercolor gives the scene a soft hazy feel.

Before his early death, the artist greatly influenced French art, introducing watercolor to the continent. He knew Eugene Delacroix intimately as Delacroix was his art teacher for a time and the two shared a studio for several months and reconnected from time to time.





## Shoshone Falls, Snake River, Idaho

by Thomas Moran

This was painted in about 1875 when Idaho was still part of the wild west. Moran was part of the group called The Hudson River School, American painters who focused on painting nature scenes. Moran painted in both watercolor and oil paints. This one is watercolor on paperboard.

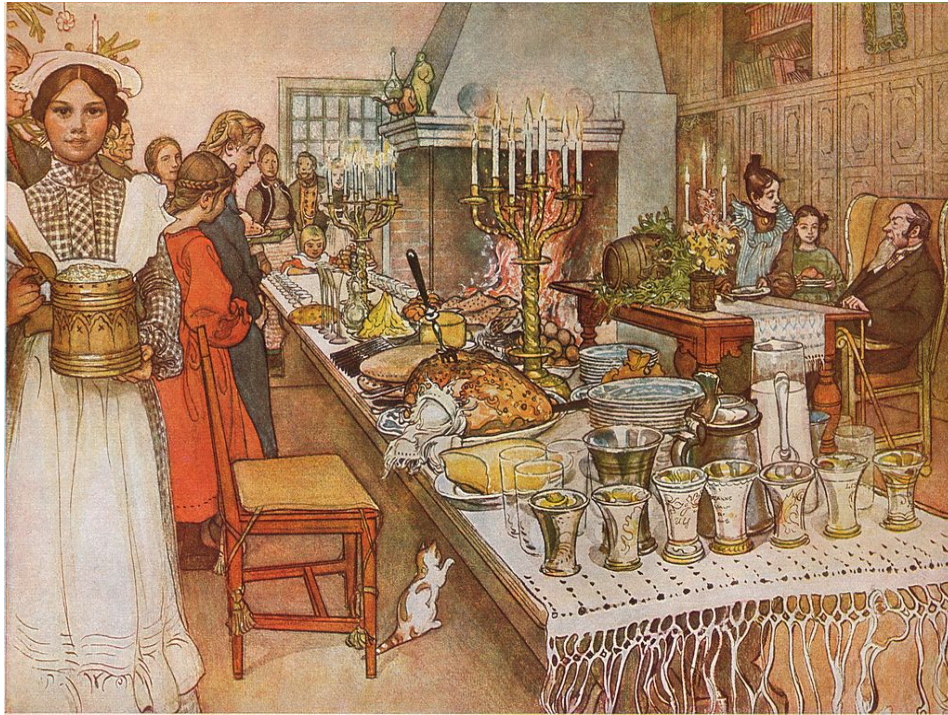


## Blue #2

by Georgia O'Keefe

This was painted in about 1916 and is one of the very early paintings by O'Keefe. O'Keefe painted frequently with watercolors and also with oil paints. She favored abstract subjects early in her career, sometimes painting objects very close up so that they appear abstract. Later in her career she moved toward more realism.





## Christmas Eve

by Carl Larson

This was painted in 1904-1905 and is watercolor on paper. Larson was a Swedish painter who was extremely successful as an illustrator and muralist. He often depicted scenes of happy family life such as this one of Christmas Eve. His children were often the models for his art. Larson is very famous in his home country of Sweden and is considered one of the great artists.



## Autumn Landscape in Rybiniszki

by Stanisław Masłowski

This watercolor on paper was painted in 1902. The artist painted in oils as well. His favorite subjects were landscapes in his native Poland. He was a prolific and successful artist completing hundreds of paintings and exhibiting in shows all around Europe. In Poland he is famous and is considered a national artist.





## Boats on the Beach of Saintes-Maries by Vincent van Gogh

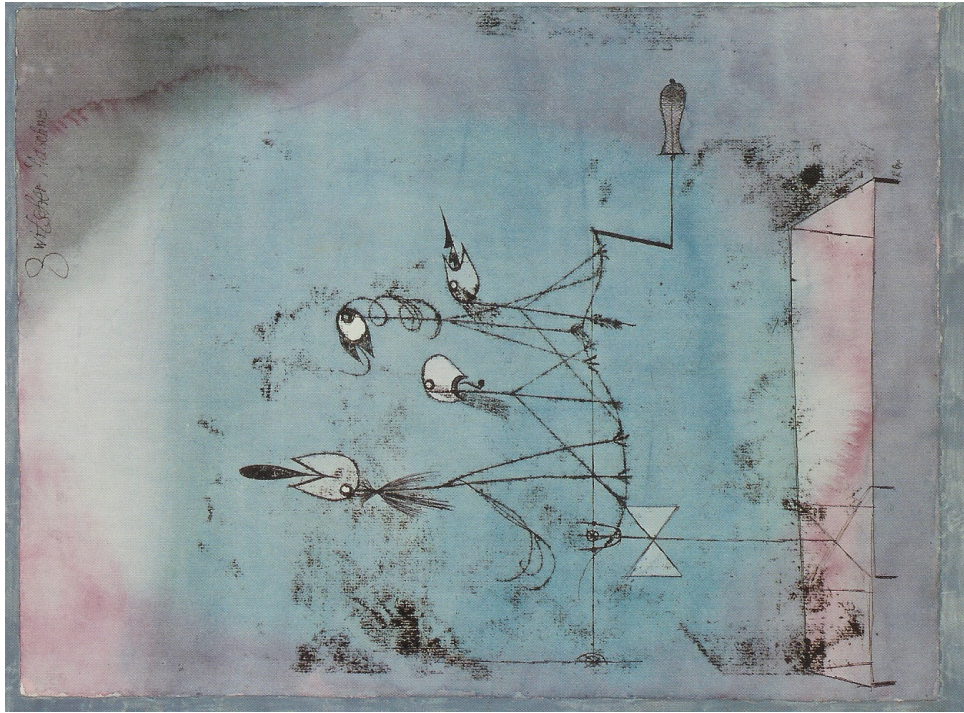
Though Van Gogh is best known for his thick oil painting techniques he also employed watercolor in hundreds of works. Many of his watercolors, such as this one, are vivid and brightly colored. This was painted in 1888 and was one of Van Gogh's later works. The location is a town on the southern coast of France near Arles where van Gogh spent a year. It was the bright light of the south of France that inspired Van Gogh to paint in vivid colors and his most famous paintings were produced during this year including *Starry Night*, *Bedroom at Arles*, *Sunflowers*, and the *Cypress* series.



## The Blue Boat by Winslow Homer

This was painted in 1892. It was first drawn in pencil and then painted over with watercolors. Winslow Homer was an American illustrator and landscape painter, best known for his seascapes. His first art lessons were from his mother, a gifted watercolor painter. Watercolor remained his favorite medium throughout his life.





## Twittering Machine

by Paul Klee

This was painted in 1922 in ink and watercolor. It shows birds sitting on a wire that is attached to a hand crank. People see this as representing things as diverse as the triumph of nature over machine, a feeling of helplessness experienced by the artist, and a visual interpretation of sound. This painting was rejected as degenerate art by Adolph Hitler and it was sold by the Nazi's to an art dealer who sold it to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City where it hangs in one of the galleries. It is one of the most popular of the museum's collection.



## Fishing Boats, Le Pouliguen

by Paul Signac

Paul Signac was a French Neo-impressionist who worked on pointillism with Georges Seurat. This painting is a watercolor which today is in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of art in New York City. Signac would often use watercolor as a relaxing break from the technical tedium and rigors of the pointillist style that he employed with his oil paints. This painting is part of a series on the harbors of France that Signac did in 1928.

# Watercolor Art Cards

This set contains watercolor paintings from many different periods and styles of art. Watercolor has not enjoyed the same degree of popularity as oil painting. Watercolor became popular in England in the late 1700s and from there spread to the continent and North America. Most artists who painted in watercolors also painted in oils. Watercolor is less forgiving than oil paints since once the paint is put to the paper it cannot be manipulated further whereas oil paints take quite some time to dry and so can be worked on the canvas.

Print these art cards and descriptions onto white card stock. Cut the cards out on the solid lines.

Help your kids become familiar with these paintings and artists by playing matching games, sorting the cards, and quizzing over them.

1. Place the cards face down, with images in one group and description cards in another group. Choose one card from each group. Determine if they match. You can read the description of the painting to see if they do.
2. Arrange the paintings in order of date. Which were painted first? Can you see a progression of techniques or style in the cards?
3. Hold up an image card and see if your child can remember the title of the painting. After these are mastered, use the image cards to memorize the titles and artists together. Finally master the titles, artists, and a little information about the painting.
4. Go online and find more art by the same artists. Can you tell which artist painted the piece just by looking at the style?