

## *Pierre-Auguste Renoir 1841-1919*

- Pierre-Auguste Renoir was born in Limoges, France on 25 February 1841.
- His family later moved to Paris, where Renoir grew up.
- As he was good at drawing he was taken on as an apprentice at a porcelain factory, where he decorated plates.
- He used to regularly visit the Louvre Museum In Paris to study the paintings there.
- In 1862 Renoir joined the *Atelier Gleyre*, a special school where he studied painting and drawing.
- He made friends with other artists such as Claude Monet.
- Renoir was very poor and often could not afford to buy the paints he needed.
- In 1869 Renoir and Claude Monet worked together, painting scenes of the River Seine.
- Renoir was more interested in painting people however.
- A number of rich and influential people asked him to paint portraits of their families.
- This helped Renoir to become better known.
- During the 1880's Renoir began to experiment with a return to more traditional styles of painting.
- He produced a number of paintings which are now considered as being his least successful work.
- After the 1880's however he returned again to the purer form of Impressionist painting and produced some of his most famous work.
- In 1903 Renoir suffered an attack of rheumatoid arthritis; this affected his joints and made movement very painful.
- He found it difficult to paint as his hands became more crippled with the disease and he could no longer hold a brush.
- To get around this he would often work with a brush tied to his hand.
- Renoir died on December 3, 1919 at Cagnes-sur-Mer.

### **Want to know more?**

- Try browsing the web to find websites about the life and work of Pierre-Auguste Renoir.
- Visit your local or school library for books about Pierre-Auguste Renoir and other Impressionist artists.
- Find out if there are any art galleries near you which have paintings by Pierre-Auguste Renoir on display and visit them.