

The Bath



Mother Louise Nursing Her Child



The Bath, 1891

Mother Louise Nursing Her Child, 1899

Baby Boom

Mary Cassatt (1844–1926) is known for exploring the nuanced relationships between mothers and children. While she objected to being stereotyped as a “lady” painter, Cassatt created an expansive body of work that illustrates her commitment to representing the experiences of modern women.

Take a closer look

A prolific printmaker, Cassatt expertly evoked affectionate moments like these. Her prints are distinguished by their radical economy of line—note the simple shapes and limited detail. Through these minimal means, the artist maximized the visual and emotional impact of such scenes.

Who knew?

Although associated with the ideals of domesticity and maternity, Cassatt never married or had children. She believed that single life proved more conducive to a successful artistic career. Cassatt prioritized her independence but remained close to family, frequently using them as subjects.

Mary Cassatt, *The Bath*, 1891; Soft-ground etching with aquatint and drypoint on paper; 12 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 9 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Wallace and Wilhelmina Holladay; Photograph by Lee Stalworth

Mary Cassatt, *Mother Louise Nursing Her Child*, 1899; Etching with drypoint on paper; 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 9 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches (overall); National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Wallace and Wilhelmina Holladay; Photograph by Lee Stalworth

