



Making an Impression

Ellen Day Hale is known for her figure studies of aristocratic and working-class women. Seventeenth-century Dutch paintings of solitary women in domestic interiors inspired her. Hale's subjects often sit near a window or door and concentrate on activities like reading and sewing.



June, ca. 1893

Take a closer look

The brushy landscape in the background illustrates the influence of French Impressionism on **Ellen Day Hale (1855–1940)**. She rendered foreground details with more clarity, drawing our attention to the woman's sun-kissed hair, plaid dress, missing button, and sharp needle at work.

Something to talk about

The artist captures our attention by depicting sunlight shining through the window, illuminating the figure's head and hands. The subject's downward gaze suggests her uninterrupted concentration on the task at hand. How does Hale's approach affect the mood of the painting?

Who knew?

Hale's radical relatives included Harriet Beecher Stowe, abolitionist and author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852); suffragist Isabella Beecher Hooker; Charlotte Perkins Gilman, feminist social reformer and writer of "The Yellow Wallpaper" (1892); and painter Lilian Westcott Hale (1880–1963).

Ellen Day Hale, *June*, ca. 1893; Oil on canvas, 24 x 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Wallace and Wilhelmina Holladay; Photograph by Lee Stalworth

