

Family Portraits

Children in Impressionist Art

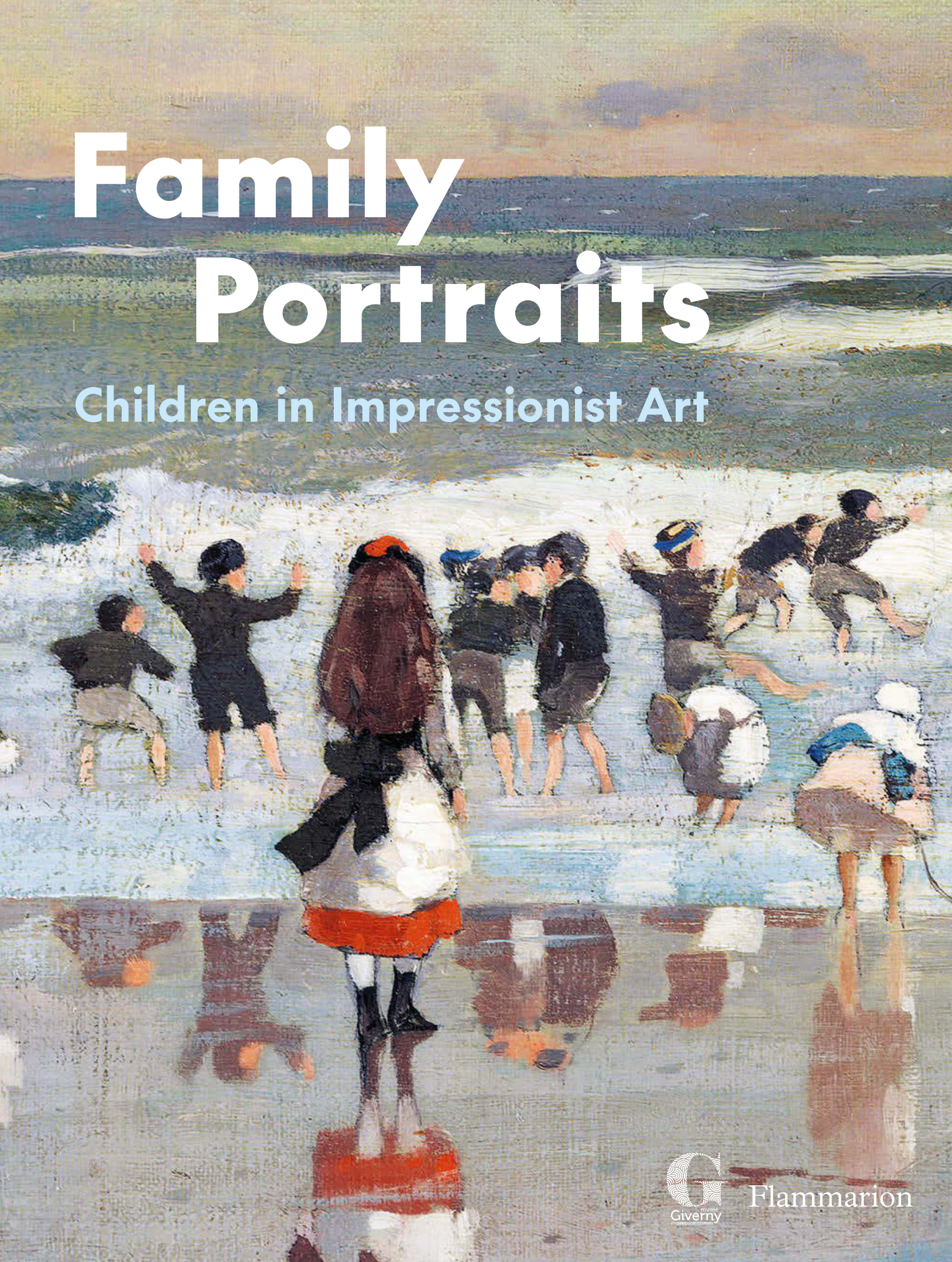




Fig. 1 Edgar Degas or René de Gas, *Odette Degas in the Studio of Her Uncle*, Edgar Degas.
Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris.



Fig. 2 Mette Gauguin, Wife of the Artist Paul Gauguin, with Their Five Children in Copenhagen, 1888.



Fig. 3 *The Hoschedé-Monet Family Outside the House, Giverny, c. 1886.*
Philippe Piguet Collection.

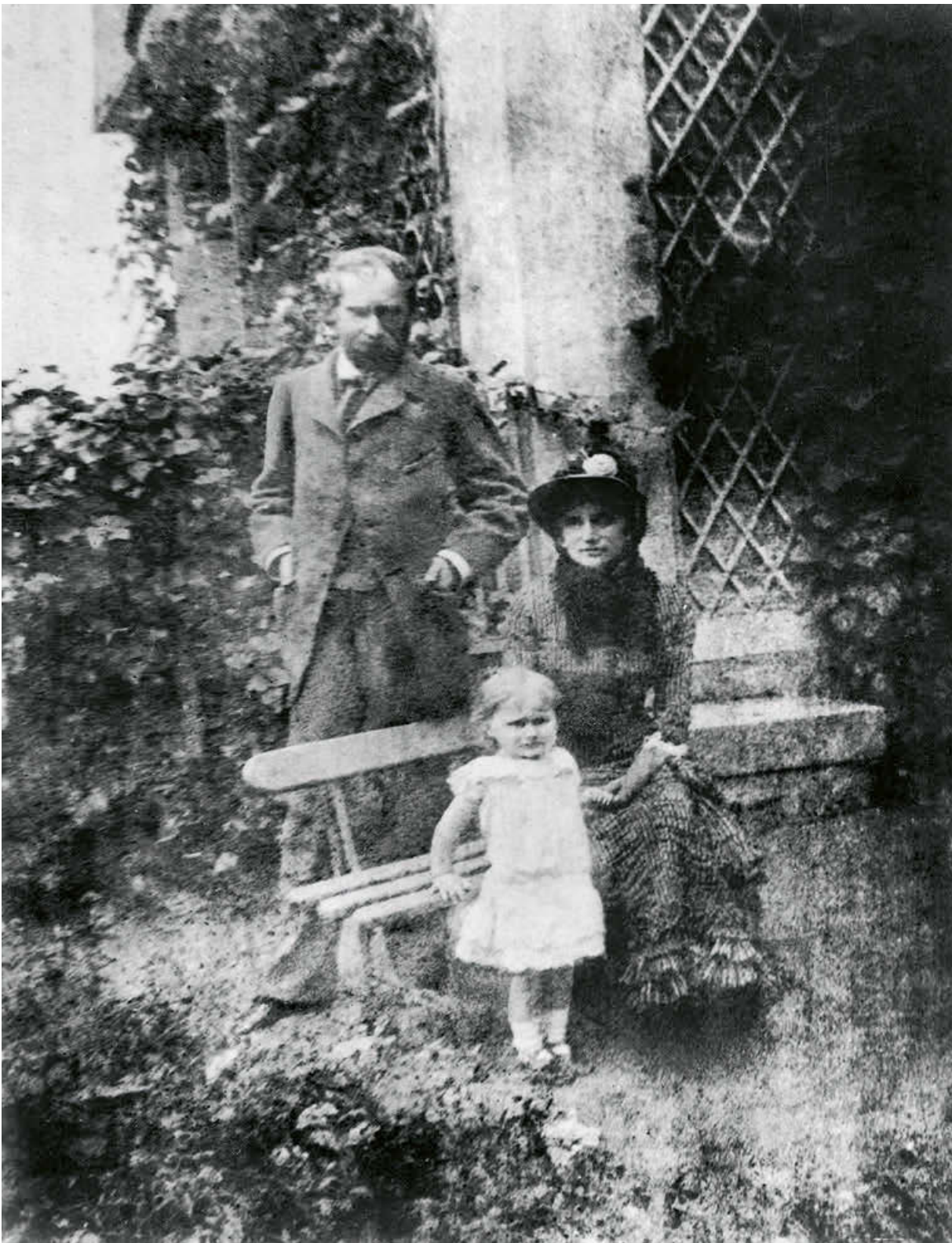


Fig. 4 *Eugène Manet, Berthe Morisot, and Their Daughter Julie in Bougival, c. 1882.*
Musée Marmottan Monet, Paris.



Fig. 5 *The Pissarro Family in Éragny, c. 1893–1897.*
Pissarro Family Archives.

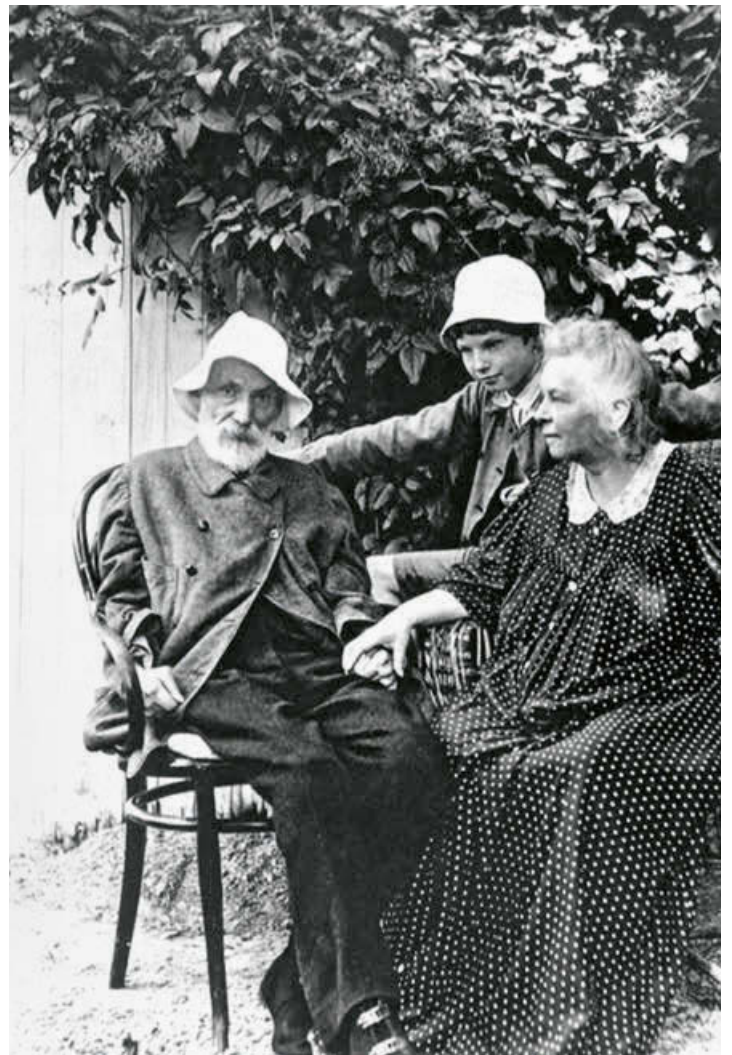


Fig. 6 *Pierre-Auguste, Claude, and Aline Renoir, 1912.*

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Fig.7 Ange Leccia, *Laure*, 1998. Video, 36 min. 2 sec.
Musée des Impressionnismes, Giverny.

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Fig.8 *Julie Wearing a Hat*, 1894.
Musée Marmottan Monet, Paris.

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Figs. 9, 10 Laurence Reynaert, *Portraits*, 2000–2003.
Black-and-white prints on baryta paper, 16 × 19½ in. (40 × 50 cm).
Frac Normandie Collection, Sotteville-lès-Rouen.

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Fig. 1.1 Edgar Degas, *Paule Gobillard, Jeannie Gobillard, Julie Manet, and Geneviève Mallarmé*, 1895.
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

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Fig. 12 Julie, Paul-Émile, Camille, and Jeanne Pissarro, 1905.

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Fig.13 A. Garcia, *The Sorolla Family*, 1900.
Private collection.



Fig. 14 The Renoir Family in the Painter's Studio, c. 1902–1903.
Musée d'Orsay, Paris.



Figs. 15, 16 Laurence Reynaert, *Portraits*, 2000–2003.
Black-and-white print on baryta paper, 16 × 19½ in. (40 × 50 cm).
Frac Normandie Collection, Sotteville-lès-Rouen.

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Fig. 17 Martial Caillebotte, *Jean and Geneviève Caillebotte*, n.d.

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Fig. 18 Clovis, Paul, and Aline Gauguin, c. 1884.

Art



Fig. 19 Georges and Félix Standing, Lucien and Ludovic-Rodo Seated, Camille Pissarro, the Maid Juliette (?), Julie with Paul-Émile on Her Knees, Jeanne and Eugénie Estruc, c. 1886. Pissarro Family Archives.

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Children in Impressionist Art

Editorial direction by
Cyrille Sciama and Marie Delbarre



Flammarion



Foreword

In spring 2023, the Musée des Impressionnismes Giverny presented a major exhibition on a theme that is immensely popular with the public: children in impressionist painting. The subject is both vast and complex, given the extent to which exhibitions and publications have disseminated these joyous images of a carefree period of life. The exhibition and this accompanying work explore the relationship between the artists, as parents, and their children. In the works of painters such as Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and Berthe Morisot, portrayals of childhood vary depending on the disposition of each artist and their own parental or domestic situation. To be a child of impressionism was no simple matter. To capture this complexity, the book is divided into sections that focus on different aspects of family concerns and socio-economic contexts. From the 1880s, when the Jules Ferry Laws enacted compulsory education in France, to the upheavals of World War I (1914–1918), which tore families apart, the concept of childhood underwent many major changes, which the impressionists portrayed in their work. Some artists who never became parents—Mary Cassatt and Edgar Degas, among others—painted portraits of the children in their social circles: a paradox that lends a certain sharp insight to their atypical perspective.

This volume also addresses the themes of education, leisure activities and games, and the slow progression toward adulthood, placing a special focus on adolescence, which is reinforced by a selection of works by contemporary photographers including Martin Parr and Rineke Dijkstra. In this way, the museum pursues its commitment to establishing a dialogue between impressionism and the present day.

For this exhibition and its accompanying catalog, the museum once again received the unwavering and generous support of the Musées d'Orsay et de l'Orangerie—Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. We are extremely grateful to the many museums and public and private collections in France and abroad that agreed to part with major works for a few months. We would also like to thank our patrons and friends, as well as the museum team, who embraced this exhibition wholeheartedly.

Sébastien Lecornu

President of the Musée des Impressionnismes Giverny
Minister for Armed Forces

Christophe Leribault

Vice president of the Musée des Impressionnismes Giverny
President of the Musées d'Orsay et de l'Orangerie—Valéry Giscard d'Estaing

Cyrille Sciamma

General director and chief curator of the
Musée des Impressionnismes Giverny



Foreword

The Caisse d'Épargne Normandie is proud to be the principal patron of the Musée des Impressionnismes Giverny for the twelfth consecutive year. A cooperative bank committed to social solidarity and serving both individuals and communities, the Caisse d'Épargne Normandie supports the museum's dynamic approach: its choice of innovative exhibitions, its acquisition of artworks, and its many projects that bring art to life in the bucolic setting of Giverny. Our two institutions, each in its own way, have a unique role to play in cultivating the development and appeal of Normandy, through our shared values: the fostering of close relationships, whether it be with clients or visitors, as well as a commitment to making art accessible to all, and to balancing economic performance with social responsibility.

In spring 2023, the museum—a renowned center of impressionism in Normandy—held an exhibition dedicated to children in impressionist art, inviting visitors to discover the different facets of childhood in the late nineteenth century; this volume continues to explore these themes. Works by Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, Mary Cassatt, and Berthe Morisot convey the impressionists' enthusiasm for depicting their families, as well as their friends, art dealers, and patrons. This book, just like the exhibition, brings to light the ambiguity of this subject and reveals a hidden reality, while also presenting the tender, private moments and daily life of children in the time of the impressionists.

I am certain that this publication will prove a resounding success, just as the museum's previous exhibitions have.

Bruno Goré

Chairman of the board of directors of the Caisse d'Épargne Normandie

Facing page:
Claude Monet,
Jean Monet dans son berceau
(*The Cradle—Camille with
the Artist's Son Jean*), detail, 1867.
National Gallery of Art,
Washington, D.C.

Fig. 25



**"It is true,
my dear friend,
you put it well—
you are
my family."**

Edgar Degas to Alexis Rouart
December 27, 1904

The impressionist masters were known for their close relationships; peers, family, art dealers, and patrons all featured regularly in their artworks, and children were favored subjects. All aspects of childhood and family life at the end of the nineteenth century—motherhood, nannies, education, games, pets, adolescence—were depicted in the works of Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, Mary Cassatt, Berthe Morisot, and others. Drawing an intimate portrait of the everyday lives of these artists and their families, this volume includes more than one hundred paintings, drawings, and sculptures alongside family photographs, juxtaposed with more contemporary photographic works that demonstrate the vibrant legacy of the impressionists.



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US \$50 / Can. \$67.50 / £40 / €45

ISBN: 978-2-08-042630-7



9 782080 426307

Printed in Slovenia by Florjancic
editions.flammarion.com / @flammarioninternational