

Mary Cassatt, *Spanish Dancer Wearing a Lace Mantilla*

Studying a painting can be like reading a book. It can allow you to forget where you actually are while you imaginatively enter another time and place. Study Cassatt's painting until you feel yourself in the midst of it, facing the *Spanish Dancer* in Cassatt's studio. Answer the prompts on this sheet. This template will create a prose-poem that describes your experience. Read it out loud once you have finished.

In Cassatt's studio...

I see

I touch

I smell

I think

I wish

I wonder

I am



Mary Cassatt, *Spanish Dancer Wearing a Lace Mantilla*, 1873, oil on canvas, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of Victoria Dreyfus.

Mary Cassatt was the only American artist to exhibit with the French Impressionists in Paris. In fact, this painting, *Spanish Dancer Wearing a Lace Mantilla*, was exhibited under the title of *Ida* at the 1874 Paris Salon. The portrait was painted while Cassatt was in Spain during the Franco-Prussian War. Cassatt was a key figure in the turn-of-the-century art world and now is considered one of the most important American expatriate artists of the 19th century.