

# MARY CASSATT

## PAINTING THE MODERN WOMAN

DIRECTED BY ALI RAY | PRODUCED BY PHIL GRABSKY

### From the Director

I started my research on Mary Cassatt concerned that there might be too much cross-over with her story and work with that in our EOS films about the other Impressionists. I expected my biggest challenge to be finding a different narrative. It wasn't long before I realised there was so much surprising, compelling and fascinating material on Cassatt that my challenge turned into being one of which storylines to edit out.

Following the progression of Cassatt's work revealed her meticulous study of Old Masters, traditional techniques and styles while also exposing her frustration at not finding a style that truly expressed her desire to be modern – until of course she encountered the Impressionists.

However, I discovered that Cassatt's connection to the radical group is only a tiny part of her story. For me the way she painted and printed images of women led the way for a major shift in the way women appeared in art: as intellectual, feminine, maternal and real. This aspect of her story was brilliantly told by my interviewees including the world's eminent Cassatt scholar Nancy Mowll Mathews.

I have become a new Cassatt fan after working on this film.

**Ali Ray**



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