We follow Charlotte Mason's art appreciation approach ~

"Children should learn pictures, line by line, group by group, reading, not books, but pictures themselves. After a short story of the artist's life ... the pictures are studied one at a time. Children learn not merely to see a picture but to look at it, taking in every detail."

We study one artist and their famous works for a month. Each week we view a new art piece, carefully observing the picture for a few minutes, and then the child describes it in detail. In this way, children create a mental art gallery of the masterpieces studied, as well as an understanding of the life of the artist.

Suggestions:

- Laminate all the portraits and gallery pictures. (These could be re-used every few years.) Hang the chart where your children will see it every day.
- Let your children study one art work in-depth. Let them narrate as many details as they can after some time studying the picture.
- Make a sketch or reproduce their own version of their favourite art work for each artist. Use outlines of famous art works available on Practical Pages.
- For review, play a matching game and match the gallery to the correct artist.
- Let your children research and find 3 more art works to add to the gallery.
- Expand each biography and let your children give 5 – 8 facts about the artist studied.
- Try find additional coffee table books, library books, calendars or posters with Impressionist Art.
- Enjoy!
Featuring these Famous Artists

1. Pablo Picasso
2. Paul Jackson Pollock
3. Henry Matisse
4. Georgia O’Keeffe
5. Michelangelo di Lodovico
7. Johannes Vermeer
8. Rembrandt van Rijn
9. Raffael Sanzio da Urbino
10. Sandro Botticelli
11. Anthony van Dyck
12. Francisco Goya
13. Auguste Rodin
14. Peter Paul Rubens
15. Salvador Dali
16. Henry Moore
Pablo Picasso (25 October 1881 – 8 April 1973) was a Spanish painter, draughtsman, and sculptor. He is one of the most recognized figures in 20th-century art. He is best known for co-founding the Cubist movement and for the wide variety of styles embodied in his work. Picasso experimented with different theories, techniques, and ideas. Picasso's creativity manifested itself in numerous mediums, including painting, sculpture, drawing, and architecture. He made immense fortunes throughout his life, making him the best-known figure in twentieth century art.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pablo_Picasso
Paul Jackson Pollock (January 28, 1912 – August 11, 1956) was an influential American painter and a major figure in the abstract expressionist movement. During his lifetime, Pollock enjoyed considerable fame and notoriety. He began painting with his canvases laid out on the studio floor, and he developed what was later called his "drip" technique. He used hardened brushes, sticks, and even basting syringes as paint applicators. Pollock's technique of pouring and dripping paint is thought to be one of the origins of the term action painting. He died at the age of 44 in an alcohol-related, single-car crash.

Henri Matisse (31 December 1869 – 3 November 1954) was a French artist, known for his use of colour and his fluid and original drawings. He was regarded as one of the three artists who developed modern art with significant developments in painting and sculpture. He was labelled a Fauve (wild beast), in the 1920s, but his mastery of the expressive language of colour and drawing, won him recognition as a leading figure in modern art.

Georgia O’Keeffe  (November 15, 1887 – 1986) O’Keeffe first came to the attention of the New York art community in 1916, soon distinguished herself as one of America’s most important modern artists. She is famous for her abstract imagery and revolutionary large-format flowers, adobe churches, cultural objects, and the bones and rocks she collected from the desert floor. O’Keeffe became one of America’s most celebrated cultural icons well before her death at age 98 in 1986.  

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgia_O%27Keeffe
Michelangelo di Lodovico

6 March 1475 – 18 February 1564, was an Italian Renaissance painter, sculptor, architect, poet, and engineer. Two of his best-known works, the Pietà and David, were sculpted before he turned thirty. Michelangelo also created two of the most influential works in fresco in the history of Western art: the scenes from Genesis on the ceiling and The Last Judgment on the altar wall of the Sistine Chapel in Rome. As an architect, Michelangelo pioneered the Mannerist style at the Laurentian Library. At 74 he succeeded Antonio da Sangallo the Younger as the architect of Saint Peter's Basilica. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michaelangelo
Leonardo di ser Piero da Vinci
(April 15, 1452 – May 2, 1519), was an Italian polymath: painter, sculptor, architect, musician, scientist, mathematician, engineer, inventor, anatomist, geologist, botanist and writer. Leonardo has often been described as the archetype of the Renaissance man, a man whose unquenchable curiosity was equaled only by his powers of invention. He is widely considered to be one of the greatest painters of all time and perhaps the most diversely talented person ever to have lived.

Johan Vermeer (31 October 1632 – 16 December 1675) was a Dutch Baroque painter who specialized in exquisite, domestic interior scenes of middle class life. Vermeer worked slowly and with great care, using bright colours, sometimes expensive pigments, with a preference for cornflower blue and yellow. He is particularly renowned for his masterly treatment and use of light in his work. Vermeer is now acknowledged as one of the greatest painters of the Dutch Golden Age.

Rembrandt van Rijn (July 15, 1606 – October 4, 1669) was a Dutch painter and etcher. He is generally considered one of the greatest painters and printmakers in European art history and the most important in Dutch history. His contributions to art came in a period that historians call the Dutch Golden Age. His reputation as an artist remained high, and for twenty years he taught nearly every important Dutch painter. Rembrandt's greatest creative triumphs are portraits of his contemporaries, self-portraits and illustrations of scenes from the Bible.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rembrandt_van_Rijn
Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino  April 6 or March 28, 1483 – April 6, 1520
better known simply as Raphael, was an Italian painter and architect of the High Renaissance, celebrated for the perfection and grace of his paintings and drawings. Together with Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci, he forms the traditional trinity of great masters of that period. Many of his works are found in the Apostolic Palace of The Vatican. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raphael](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raphael)
Sandro Botticelli (1445 – May 17, 1510) was an Italian painter of the Florentine school during the Early Renaissance. He was born in the city of Florence. He became an apprentice when he was about fourteen years old and in 1462 he was apprenticed to Fra Filippo Lippi. By 1470 Botticelli had his own workshop. Botticelli never wed. His paintings remained in the churches and villas for which they had been created. His work has been seen to represent the linear grace of Early Renaissance painting, and The Birth of Venus and Primavera rank now among the most familiar masterpieces of Florentine art.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Botticelli
Sir Anthony van Dyck (22 March 1599 – 9 December 1641) was a Flemish Baroque artist who became the leading court painter in England. He is most famous for his portraits of King Charles I of England and Scotland and his family and court, painted with a relaxed elegance that was to be the dominant influence on English portrait-painting for the next 150 years. He also painted biblical and mythological subjects, displayed outstanding facility as a draftsman, and was an important innovator in watercolour and etching.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_van_Dyck
Francisco José de Goya y Lucientes (30 March 1746 – 16 April 1828) was a Spanish painter and printmaker regarded both as the last of the Old Masters and as the first of the moderns. Goya was a court painter to the Spanish Crown and a chronicler of history. In 1786, Goya was appointed painter to Charles III, and in 1789 was made court painter to Charles IV. His portraits are notable for their disinclination to flatter. After contracting cholera and a high fever in 1792, Goya was left deaf, and he became withdrawn and introspective. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francisco_Goya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francisco_Goya)
Auguste Rodin

Auguste Rodin (12 November 1840 – 17 November 1917) was a French sculptor. He is generally considered the progenitor of modern sculpture. He was schooled traditionally, and took a craftsman-like approach to his work, and desired academic recognition although he was never accepted into Paris's foremost school of art. Many of Rodin's most notable sculptures were roundly criticized during his lifetime. But Rodin's reputation grew, such that he became the preeminent French sculptor of his time Rodin remains one of the few sculptors widely known outside the visual arts community. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auguste_Rodin
Sir Peter Paul Rubens (June 28, 1577 – May 30, 1640) was a prolific seventeenth-century Flemish Baroque painter, and used extravagant Baroque style that emphasized movement, color, and sensuality. He is well-known for his Counter-Reformation altarpieces, portraits, landscapes, and history paintings of mythological and allegorical subjects. His commissioned works were mostly religious subjects, "history" paintings, which included mythological subjects, and hunt scenes. His fondness of painting full-figured women gave rise to the terms ‘Rubensian’ or ‘Rubenesque’ for plus-sized women.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Paul_Rubens
Salvador Dalí i Domènech (May 11, 1904 – January 23, 1989) was a prominent Spanish Catalan surrealist painter born in Figueres. Dalí was a skilled draftsman, best known for the striking and bizarre images in his surrealist work. His painterly skills are often attributed to the influence of Renaissance masters. His best-known work, The Persistence of Memory, was completed in 1931. Dali's expansive artistic repertoire includes film, sculpture, and photography, in collaboration with a range of artists in a variety of media. Dali was highly imaginative! http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salvador_Dal%C3%AD
Henry Spencer Moore (30 July 1898 – 31 August 1986) was an English sculptor and artist. He was best known for his abstract monumental bronze sculptures which are located around the world as public works of art. His forms are usually abstractions of the human figure, typically depicting mother-and-child or reclining figures. He fulfilled large-scale commissions which made him exceptionally wealthy. Yet he lived frugally and most of the money he earned went towards endowing the Henry Moore Foundation.


Henry Moore

Chac Mool stone statue

Reclining Figure, 1951
I acknowledge that this is not a comprehensive list, but the selection covers several centuries and demonstrates the wide variety of artists and their styles.

**References for other Web Sites:**

http://library.thinkquest.org/J001159/famart.htm

http://wwar.com/artists/

http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/

http://www.artquotes.net/masters.htm