

A DAY IN THE ARTS

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Jean Frédéric Bazille

He took command of his regiment after his commanding officer was injured, leading the men into an attack on the German soldiers during the Franco-Prussian War. Brave as he was, he did not survive the battle. Frederic Bazille was struck twice and died on the battlefield. He was only 29. Before joining the fight, Bazille took part in another kind of battle: The struggle to gain recognition for he and his fellow impressionist painters.

After arriving in Paris, France, in 1862 to study medicine, he soon began painting in the studio of Charles Gleyre, part of the Ecole des Beaux-arts. Bazille quickly made friends with fellow students Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Alfred Sisley, young, enthusiastic men who revolutionized the painting world of their day. These men would, with Edouard Manet, Camille Pissarro and Berthe Morisot, challenge the views of the establishment with their Impressionist painting

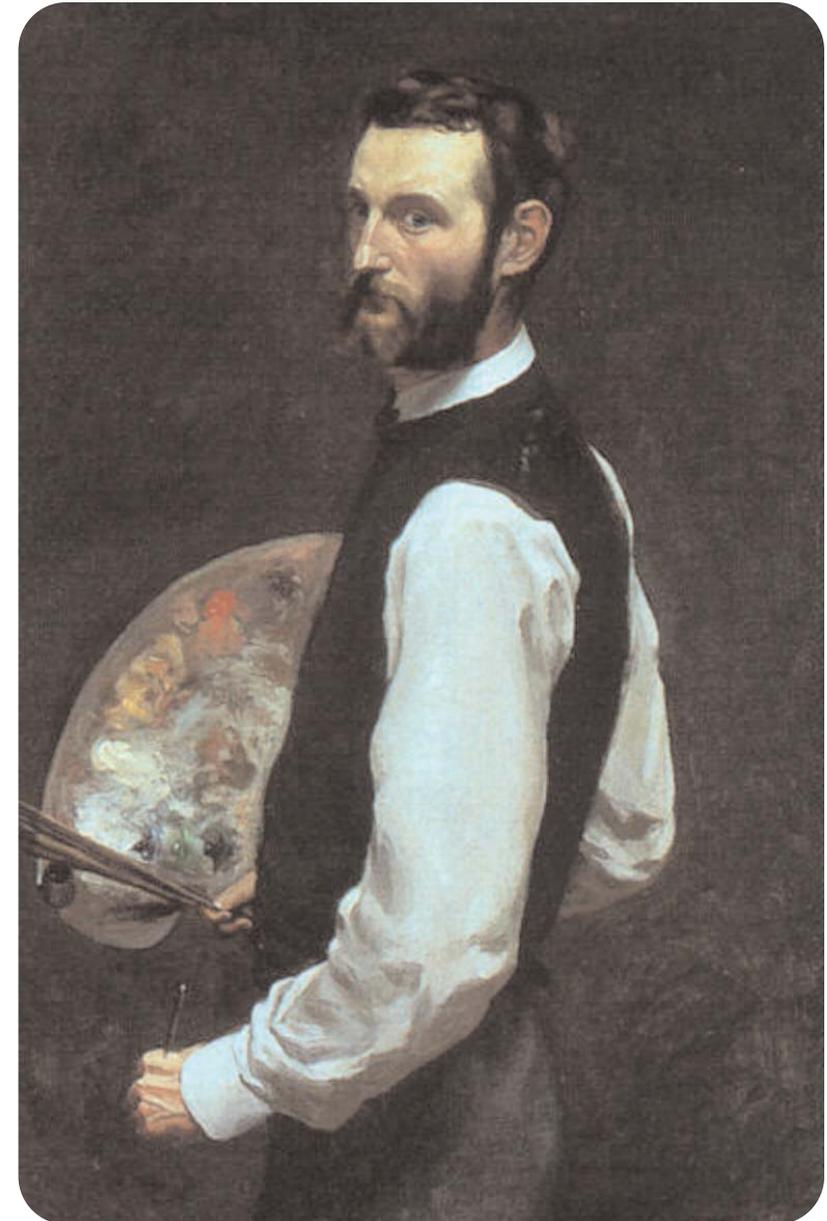
style. The battle was not an easy one for to make it as an artist, one had to show his work in The Salon, the exclusive French state-run show. The men who judged whether a work qualified for the show often did not allow the Impressionist to join, although Bazille's most famous work, Family Reunion, was shown in 1869.

Do to the challenges of the Salon, and the public's shocked outrage at this new technique, many of



Above: *Paysage au bord du Lez* 1870, Oil on canvas Minneapolis Institute of Arts

Right: Self-Portrait, Frédéric Bazille, 1865-66





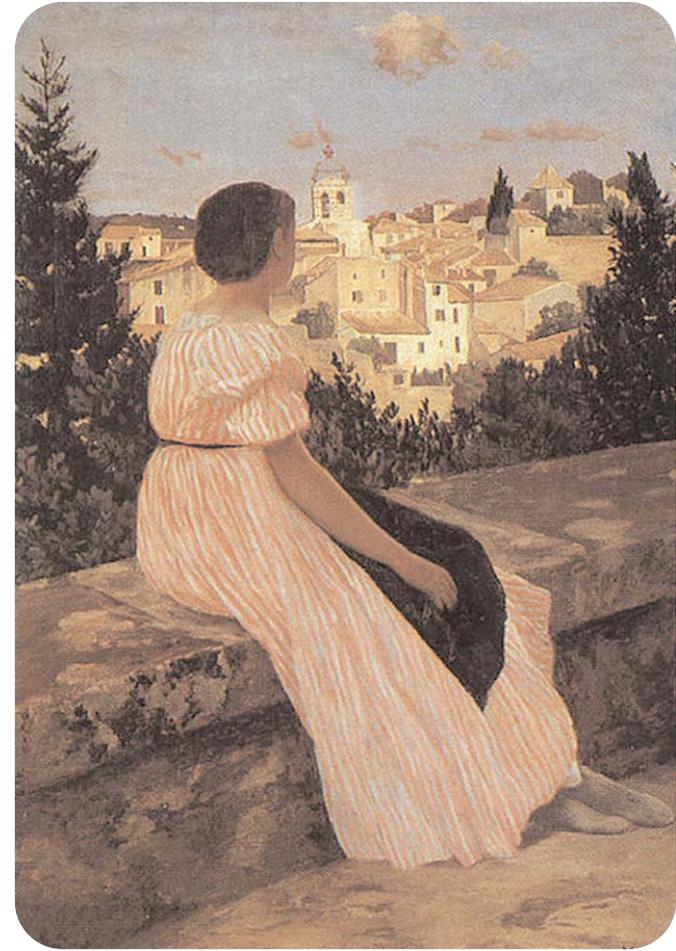
Family Reunion, Frédéric Bazille c. 1850 Musée d'Orsay

Bazille's friends, especially Monet and Renoir, were continually struggling financially. Bazille was born into a wealthy family, allowing him to study painting and help support his friends. He was often buying their works, giving money or art materials to his friends, and also rented a large studio where they were allowed to paint. It was in this studio in the Batignolles neighborhood of Paris, that the Impressionist often gathered. Some even referred to the movement as the "Batignolles School" for a short time.

While Bazille enjoyed his friend's work,

and supported them and the movement wholeheartedly, his style of painting was not quite the same. He tended to make the figure the center of attention, as opposed to nature itself. His depiction of the figure was often more realistic too. While his sense of color was well developed, his overall work was not generally considered to be on par with his friends. That didn't deter him, though, because he had a real passion for painting. Eventually his parents allowed him to discontinue his medical schooling in favor of a career in art.

Bazille's painting, *The Pink Dress*, depicts his cousin, Thérèse des Hours, as seen from behind; in front of her stretches out a sunlit landscape. In *Family Reunion* Bazille's extended family is seen visiting at their country estate, Meric. The painting showed the artist's adept use of color and lighting in portraying the human figure. Another well-known painting is *The Artist's*



The Pink Dress (View of Castelnaud-le-Lez, Hérault), 1864, oil on canvas, Musée d'Orsay



Studio. Here Bazille included his friends Renoir, Emile Zola, Monet, Manet and Edmond Maitre in his studio on the Rue de La Condamine.

Bazille died before the Impressionist gained the respect that he worked for but his financial and emotional support of

these men in their younger years enabled them to continue working after their friend's death. ✎

Above: *The Artist's Studio*; 9 rue de la Condamine, Frédéric Bazille, 1870. Oil on canvas. Musée d'Orsay

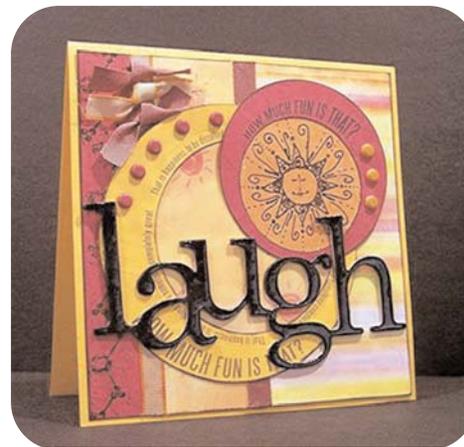


BLOG REVIEW



Looking for a bit of creative inspiration? Do you enjoy working with paper, creating magnificent greeting cards? Or want to start but don't know where to begin? Then we have the blog for you! Head on over to <http://caardvarks.blogspot.com/> for their monthly card designing challenges and start constructing your masterpiece!

One of their challenges, which took place in January, was titled Seeing Spots. The challenge was to incorporate polka dots into your card design. Sounds simple enough. But to give you some ideas, the Caardvark "crew" of ten clever and prolific scrap-booking gals showcases the designs they have come up with. Any my, are they ever talented! I've included some of their designs below the arti-



cle for you to enjoy.

As an added incentive, the Caardvark crew tries to line up nifty prizes for the winning card designs. For the Seeing Spots challenge, the prize came from My Scrapbook Nook, a nifty on-line company that offers theme kits filled with handy items that crafters might like to use in their projects. ➤

Resources:

<http://caardvarks.blogspot.com/>

Heidi- <http://vanlaardesigns.blogspot.com/>

Nathalia - <http://funkyphreshpapierkreatiions.blogspot.com/>

Jolene - <http://jolenejohnston.blogspot.com/>

Scrapbook Nook - <http://myscrapbooknook.com/>

Card designs below, from left to right, belong to:

Heidi- <http://vanlaardesigns.blogspot.com/>

Jolene - <http://jolenejohnston.blogspot.com/>

and Nathalia - <http://funkyphreshpapierkreatiions.blogspot.com/>

WORD OF THE DAY

Académie des Beaux-Arts

French Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture, founded in the seventeenth century by Colbert and King Louis XIV