



Artist & Composer Study

This session's featured artist is Helene Schjerfbeck. We've included four art selections for your kids and teens to use for picture study. They are:

- *Clothes Drying*
- *Portrait of a Girl*
- *Mother and Child*
- *The Convalescent*

Our featured composer is Edvard Grieg. We've included four of his pieces (with links to each) to listen to. They are:

- In the Hall of the Mountain King
- Wedding Day at Troldhaugen
- Puck
- Morning Mood

Artist & Composer Study



Helene Schjerfbeck

July 10, 1862 – January 23, 1946

Helene Schjerfbeck was a remarkable artist who made a significant impact in Finland and within the greater world of art. Helene was born on July 10, 1862, in Helsinki, Finland, to her mother, Olga Johanna, and father, Svante Schjerfbeck. She showed promising skills in art from a young age, and her father gave her pencils and paints, fueling the artistic passion that would follow her throughout her life.

Helene faced many challenges throughout her childhood. At the age of four, she fell down a staircase, leaving her with a hip injury that would cause her to limp for the rest of her life.

This limp also kept her from attending a normal school but undeterred, Helene enrolled at the Finnish Art Society's School of Drawing at the age of eleven, making her their youngest student to attend.

Sadly, her father did not live to see her graduate. When Helene was just thirteen years old, Svante passed away from tuberculosis. A time of hardship fell on her family, and Helene's mother was forced to rent out rooms in their house to make enough money to live on. Despite this unfortunate circumstance, Helene graduated from the Finnish Art School only a year after her father's death, and she continued to pursue her love of art with determination and perseverance.

Upon graduating, Helene continued to learn at Westermarck, a private academy. Her talent and dedication soon caught the attention of art enthusiasts and critics alike. She began exhibiting her work at a young age, gaining recognition for her unique style and technical prowess. This gave her the opportunity to travel to Paris, where she painted and studied with many fellow artists, greatly influencing her style at the time.

One of the defining features of Helene's art was her ability to capture the essence of her subjects with profound emotion and depth. Whether she was painting portraits, landscapes, or still lifes, her work reflected a keen sense of observation and sensitivity to her surroundings. Throughout her career, Helene experimented with various artistic styles, ranging from realism to modernism.

In her early years, she was particularly influenced by French naturalism and en plein air (out-of-doors) painting, using a realistic style where artists would paint scenery and people as they saw them. However, later in her life, her style developed into more modernistic and abstract paintings. In addition to her technical skills, Helene's art reflected her introspective nature and keen psychological insight. Many of her portraits reveal a profound understanding of emotion, capturing the complexities of the human experience with remarkable clarity.

After many years of traveling, Helene moved back to Finland, where she taught at the Art Society school for several years, training the next generation of artists. In 1902, her health became too fragile to continue her teaching, and she stepped down from her position. However, she continued exhibiting her paintings for many years, not only in Finland but also in various countries such as Russia, Denmark, and Sweden. As she aged, she remained an active painter and created a series of abstract self-portraits that depicted her aging profile over the years. These paintings are still highly regarded today.

Helene passed away on January 23, 1946, at the age of 83. However, her legacy extends far beyond the borders of Finland. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and museums around the world, earning her a place among the most celebrated artists of her time. She was a trailblazer in the world of art whose talent and dedication continue to inspire artists and art lovers alike. Through her remarkable body of work, she not only captured the beauty of the world around her but also explored the depths of the human soul with unparalleled insight and sensitivity.

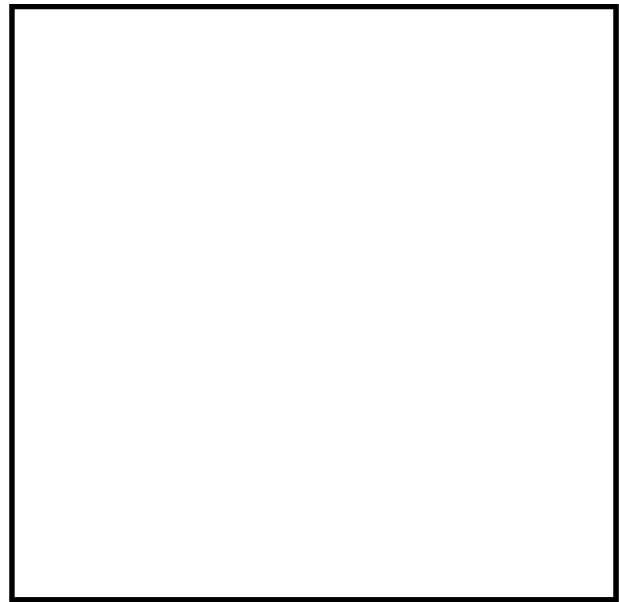
Artist Study

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Artist Fun Facts: _____



Art Mediums Used: _____

Famous Artworks: _____

Further Study:



Clothes Drying, 1883



Portrait of a Girl, 1885



Mother and Child, 1886



The Convalescent, 1888

Picture Study

Title: _____

Date Created: _____

Art Mediums Used: _____

Further Study: _____

Use the box to draw a picture inspired by this artwork.

