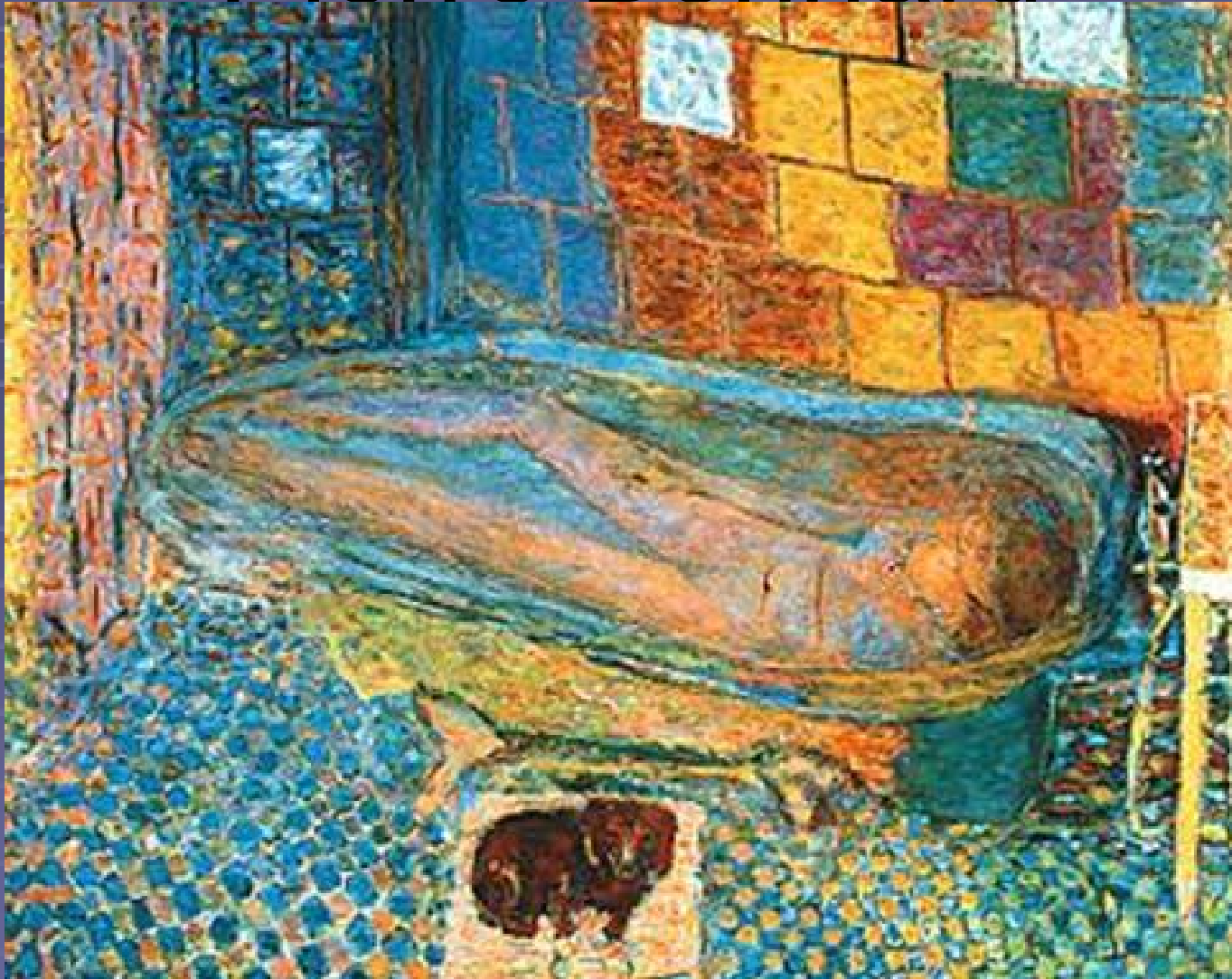


Pierre Bonnard



Kelsey Block



The Art

- 1867-1947
- Studied in Paris
- He describes his art saying, “What I am after is the first impression - I want to show all one sees on first entering the room – what my eye takes in at first glance.”

Les Nabis

- A group of young artists who wanted to deviate from mainstream art
- Provided a foundation for 20th century abstract art
- Developed their own vocabulary
- They wanted art to be seen as “the visual expression of an artist's synthesis of nature in personal aesthetic metaphors”.



Impressions

- “One must never let go before having managed to set down one's first impressions.” - Bonnard
- “The important thing is to remember what most impressed you and to put it on canvas as fast as possible.” – Bonnard



“A painting
that is well
composed is
half finished.”
- Bonnard



Reductionism



- “The profound irony inherent in modernist reductionism is its noble attempt to get to the heart of the matter, whatever it might be, despite the inadequacy of the means employed.” — Dr. Francis V. O’Connor

Landscape

- “Art will never be able to exist without nature” -
Bonnard
- “You cannot possibly invent painting all by yourself.” -
Bonnard



Bonnard Quotes

- “Draw your pleasure, paint your pleasure, and express your pleasure strongly.”
- Bonnard’s definition of painting - “The transcription of the adventures of the optic nerve.”
- “Color does not add a pleasant quality to design - it reinforces it.”



Critique



- Dr. Francis V. O'Connor critiques Bonnard's domestic scenes... "one wanted more of these, and less of his claustrophobic domesticity."
- "But I have never been sure the effort needed to squeeze out the meaning... in painters such as Bonnard, is worth the effort, since the medium of meaning, whether visual or verbal, is fundamentally inadequate." –Dr. Francis V. O'Connor

Praise



- John Loughrey says, "What distinguishes Bonnard's work from that of his peers...is a sociability tempered by introspection. Here was a man enamored of the sweep and color of urban life, but more often concerned with the isolated figure, the small, singular detail, or the intimate moment."



Sources

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