

Museum Activity: Family Portraits

Looking Questions

- What do you see in this painting? Describe all its details.
- Would you consider this a landscape or a portrait? Why?
- What is the setting of the work? Why might the figures be there?
- How are the figures painted? What are they doing?
- Who are the figures? Why do you think Bredin painted them?
- What is the relationship between the figures? Why do you think that?
- How is this painting different from other impressionist paintings in the galleries? Explain.
- What is the mood of the painting? What elements in the painting help create this mood? Explain your answer.



IMAGE CREDIT: Rae Sloan Bredin (1880 – 1933), *Morning Light* (alternatively titled *Lawn Shadows*), c. 1931, oil on canvas, 25 x 30 inches. Courtesy of Private Collection, Copyright Bredin Family.

About the Artist

Born in Butler County, Pennsylvania, Rae Sloan Bredin moved to Bucks County to join the community of artists known as the New Hope Group, a collection of Pennsylvania impressionist painters. Bredin first came into the area around 1911 to visit fellow artist and former classmate Charles Rosen and to study with William Langson Lathrop. He continued to visit the years after, for both social visits with friends, but also to see Alice Rachel Price.

Sister of noted art dealer and gallerist F. Newlin Price and painter M. Elizabeth Price, Alice Price married Bredin in April of 1914. After spending the summer in France and Italy, the two returned to New Hope. After the birth of three children, the family moved into a large house they built and named it *Lawn Shadows*. Bredin's life and career mixed, with family and friends often appearing as figures in both his portraits and landscapes. While Bucks County remained the inspiration of his landscapes, *Lawn Shadows* was a constant theme appearing in his works.

Linked in more ways than one, Rae Sloan Bredin and fellow painter Daniel Garber found inspiration in the Delaware River. Both completed murals of the river and canal as subjects. Garber's *A Wooded Watershed* was painted for the 1926 Sesquicentennial Exposition and Bredin created a set of murals for the Trenton State Museum in 1928, now the New Jersey State Museum.

Who is Your Muse?

In both his portraiture and the figures found in his landscape paintings, Rae Sloan Bredin uses friends and family as inspiration. The paintings tend to be personal and intimate because of the relationship between the artist and the models. Artists who paint the figure may have works that depict family and friends as their subject matter. This might be one way to show a deeper connection with the sitter or to avoid paying expensive fees for models.

Who is someone important to you? What might a portrait of them as your muse look like? Sketch this person in the box above.

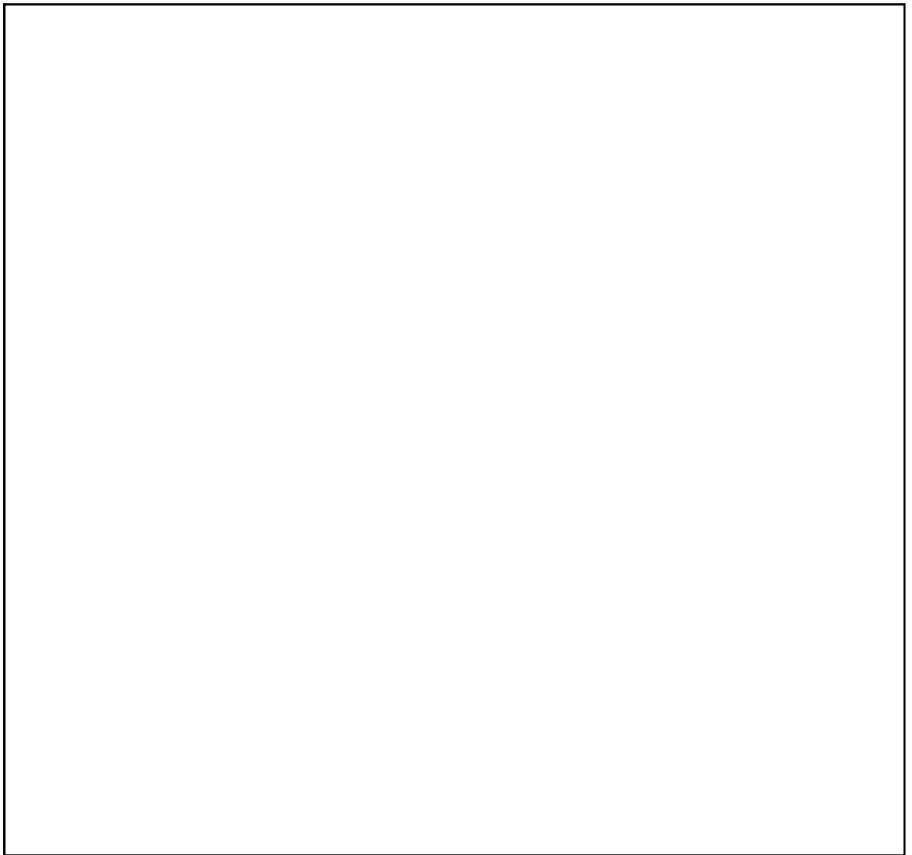


IMAGE CREDIT: *The Twins: Virginia and Jane*, 1917, Joseph T. Pearson, Jr. (American), 1876—1951, Oil on Canvas, H. 60 x W. 72 inches, James A. Michener Art Museum, Gift of Oliver Pearson.

Similar Sisters

Both Joseph Pearson's painting, *The Twins: Virginia and Jane* (left), and Bredin's painting, *The Stamp Collectors* (found in the exhibition), depict a set of two daughters, painted by their father. How are both relationships shown? Can you tell they are sisters? Consider how the two paintings are similar and different.

If you could create a painting of your family, how would it look? Do you have any siblings? Would your painting be similar to the paintings of Pearson or Bredin? Why or why not? Use a separate piece of paper to create your drawing. Use colored pencils or markers for color.

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