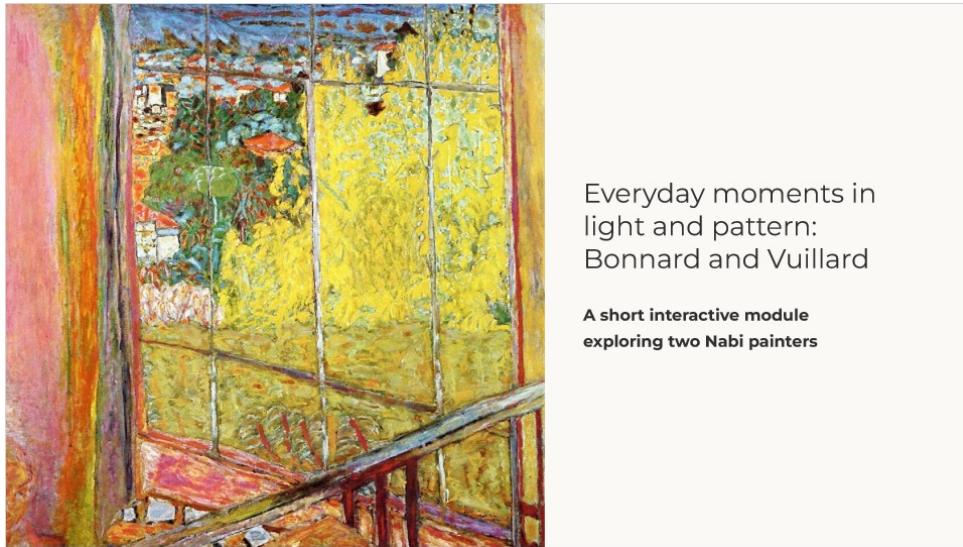




Everyday moments in light and pattern: Bonnard and Vuillard

Overview



This interactive learning module introduces the work of Pierre Bonnard and Édouard Vuillard. It presents visually rich artwork in a structured way that allows sustained looking without losing orientation.

The module focuses on close observation of colour, light and pattern, rather than extended art-historical explanation. Works are grouped by theme, allowing visual connections to be noticed across paintings without relying on chronology.

Content moves from orientation and context into deeper analysis, with short interactive moments for comparison and close looking.

The interface is restrained, using white space and a light, neutral palette to reduce visual noise. Typography supports readability and reduces distraction.

High-quality reproductions are used throughout, with a lightbox function available where closer inspection supports learning. Visual consistency across screens helps people stay oriented as they move between sections.

Navigation and prompts are consistent throughout, so people can move through the module without needing to relearn how it works. Progress indicators and visited-state markers provide subtle feedback, supporting confidence and ease of use without visual noise.

Learning goals

After completing this module, you will be able to:

- describe Bonnard and Vuillard's use of light and pattern to depict daily life
- identify key compositional techniques unique to each artist
- distinguish key differences in their treatment of interior spaces and emotion.

Now let's begin exploring their work.

Interaction is limited and predictable, with short actions that support comparison, close looking and brief reflection. Attention stays on the artwork rather than the interface.

The lives of Bonnard and Vuillard: a brief timeline

Select each point along the timeline to hear about key moments in the artists' lives and see examples of their work.

Bonnard

Year	Event
1867	Born in Fontenay-aux-Roses
1868	Born in Cuiseaux
1890s	Joins the Nabis group
1900s	Portraits and murals
1912 to 1940s	Interior paintings
1930s	Major commissions
1940	Dies in La Baule
1947	Dies in Le Cannet

Vuillard

Accessibility is handled as part of the overall structure. Navigation order, labelling and alternatives for complex interactions support screen readers, keyboard use and predictable movement through the module, including layered interactions.

Bonnard's use of light: *The Open Window*

Study the painting, then drag each use of light to match its correct explanation.

Open accessible version

Contrasting light

Bonnard captures the experience of coming indoors from bright sunlight, with light that challenges the eye to adjust gradually.

Dazzle and adjustment

The light brings an almost ethereal glow to the interior, transforming everyday surroundings into something luminous and abstract.

Focal point

The painting's window frames the vivid view outside – inviting the viewer into a different visual and emotional space.

Memory and atmosphere

Strong contrast between the rich, warm interior tones and the cool, bright outdoor palette evokes a tension between inside and outside.

Psychological impact

Bonnard painted from recollection, not observation, which gives the light a poetic, dreamy quality rather than factual realism.

Transfiguration

Through light and colour, the painting conveys a sense of emotional yearning - perhaps a desire to escape beyond the domestic scene.

Pierre Bonnard, 1921, *The Open Window*, Oil on canvas, 118.1 cm x 95.9 cm

View larger painting

Restart

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The module ends with a short review and a low-pressure knowledge check, followed by a closing screen that returns attention to everyday scenes and visual detail.