Émile Bernard

Who was Émile Bernard?



Émile Bernard was a French painter, writer, and art theorist. He's known for creating colourful, bold paintings that were very different from the art styles of his time.

He helped develop **Cloisonnism**, a style of Post-Impressionism and he was closely associated with the Pont-Aven School of Symbolism, which was also part of the Post-Impressionist era.

His paintings show bold outlines and flat areas of colour

He was good friends with famous artists like **Van Gogh** and **Gauguin**.

What Did He Create?

- Bold and colourful paintings with strong outlines
- Landscapes, portraits, and scenes of everyday life
- Religious and symbolic art in his later years
- Drawings, prints, and illustrations
- Art theories and letters that explained his ideas about painting

Childhood

- Born on **28 April 1868** in **Lille, France**
- Moved with his family to **Paris** when he was a child
- Loved to draw from a young age
- His family supported his interest in art
- Spent time in Brittany, a region in France that inspired many of his artworks

Education

- Began studying at the **École des Arts Décoratifs** in Paris at age 16
- Later studied at the **Académie Julian**, a private art school
- Was expelled from school in 1886 for challenging traditional art ideas

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- Continued to study on his own and explore new styles with other young artists
- Travelled across France and met other painters like **Toulouse-Lautrec** and **Van Gogh**

Career

- Developed a new art style called **Cloisonnism** with Louis Anquetin
- Painted alongside artists like **Gauguin**, **Van Gogh**, and **Toulouse-Lautrec**
- Helped lead the **Symbolist** movement in art
- Had a strong friendship—and later a falling out—with **Gauguin**
- Wrote many letters and essays about art and philosophy
- Travelled to **Egypt**, where he lived for several years and explored new ideas
- Continued painting and writing until his death in 1941

Quotes from Émile Bernard

“Art is a form of love. Art is the ultimate gift. Art heals life.”
“Let us not forget that art is not the copying of nature, but the expression of feelings.”
“Colour expresses something in itself.”

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Art

 Buckwheat harvesters

 Epoque de Pont Aven

 La Moisson

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