

# Girl with a pearl earring

## The painting

- It's an oil painting.
- The painting is an example of <u>portrait</u> painting.
- The artist is **Johannes Vermeer**. He was Dutch.
- FIRST IMPRESSIONS
  - Who is this girl?
  - Why is she important?
  - What is she wearing on her head?

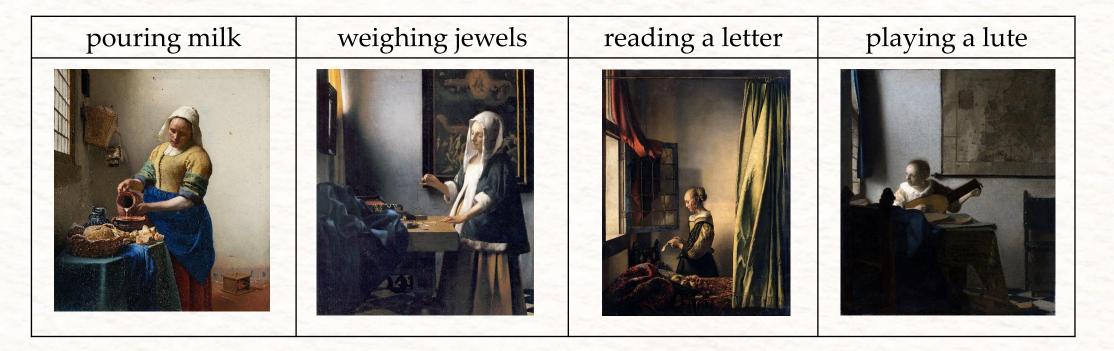


#### About Jan Vermeer

- He was born in 1632 in Delft. It is a town of about 25,000 people.
- It is best known for its blue and white glazed earthenware.
- He spent all of his life there.



- He painted mostly domestic life.
- Often he painted a woman alone doing something:



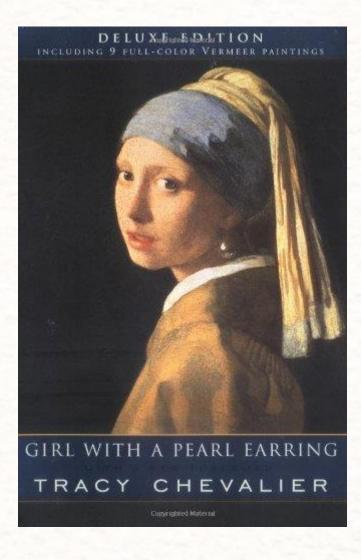
• We don't known who were his models.

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• They were probably all painted in the same room: Vermeer's studio on the first floor in his mother-in-law's house.

#### The book

- Author: Tracy Chevalier
- Title: *Girl with a Pearl Earring.*
- City of publication: NEW YORK.
- Year of publication: 1999.
- Book Length: 233 pages.



#### The author



- Tracy Chevalier wrote a historical novel.
- She is an American novelist.
- The painting *Girl with a Pearl Earring* inspired her.
- The book is a work of fiction.
- Time:

she starts the story in 1664 and goes on for two years. At the end of the book, it tells what happens 10 years later in 1676.

• Place:

the action takes place in Delft, Holland.



## The story

- Girl With a Pearl Earring tells the story of Griet.
- She was a Dutch girl. She was 16 years old.
- She became a maid (= domestica) in the house of the painter Johannes Vermeer.
- Her calm and perceptive manner helped her in her household duties, but also attracted the painter's attention.
- They had a similar way of looking at things.
- Vermeer slowly drew her into the world of his paintings.

#### VERMEER

- In 1653 Vermeer converted to Catholicism and married Catharina Bolnes.
- She was a Catholic rich woman.
- They had eleven children.
- The family lived in the house of Maria Thins, Vermeer's mother-in-law.

→ Only 20% of the population were Catholic. The rest were Protestant.



#### GRIET

- She was 16 years old.
- She grew up in a poor Protestant family.
- She worked in Vermeer household to earn money for her family.
- She cleaned the studio of her master.
- There he noticed her natural beauty and began painting her.

#### The movie



- It is a 2003 drama film.
- It is based on the novel of the same name.



Scarlett Johansson stars as Griet.

Colin Firth plays the role of the Dutch painter Vermeer.

### The end

- For the painting, Vermeer asked Griet to wear his wife's pearl earrings.
- Catharina, Vermeer's wife, discovered that Griet used her earrings.
- She wanted to see the painting of Griet.
- She was angry with his husband because he chose to paint Griet.
- Catharina wanted to destroy the painting.
- Then she sent away Griet from the house forever.
- Vermeer didn't say anything to change his wife's decision.
- Griet left the house in shock.



The main theme:

The deep wish of a maid being set free.

Thanks for attention!