



Girl with a pearl earring



# The painting

- It's an oil painting.
- The painting is an example of portrait 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:

pouring milk	weighing jewels	reading a letter	playing a lute
 A painting of a woman in a yellow and blue dress pouring milk from a jug into a bowl on a table. The scene is set in a simple room with a window and a basket of bread on the table.	 A painting of a woman in a dark blue dress and white headscarf standing at a table, weighing jewels. The room is dimly lit, with a painting on the wall behind her.	 A painting of a woman in a dark dress sitting at a table, reading a letter. The room is dimly lit, with a window and a green curtain visible.	 A painting of a woman in a white dress sitting at a table, playing a lute. The room is dimly lit, with a window and a painting on the wall behind her.

- We don't know who were his models.
- 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.





A close-up portrait of Colin Firth as Johannes Vermeer. He has long, wavy brown hair and a slight beard, looking intently at the camera. He is wearing a light-colored, possibly white, shirt. The lighting is dramatic, with a strong light source from the left, casting deep shadows on the right side of his face and body. The background is dark and out of focus.

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!