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The Word, "la coiffure" evokes a precise image of a wealthy woman in a glamorous setting.

The Coiffure

Mary Cassatt, 1890-1891 C.E.

Drypoint and aquatint

This print is part of a ten part series. It is one of the two nudes depicted in the series.

This piece by Mary Cassatt depicts a young woman having a private moment as she is getting ready for her day.

Mary Cassatt adds an emphasis on the young woman's neck. This may be due to the Japanese sign of beauty.

The color scheme is used by Mary Cassatt to highlight the young woman's skin tone and to put an emphasis on her natural beauty.

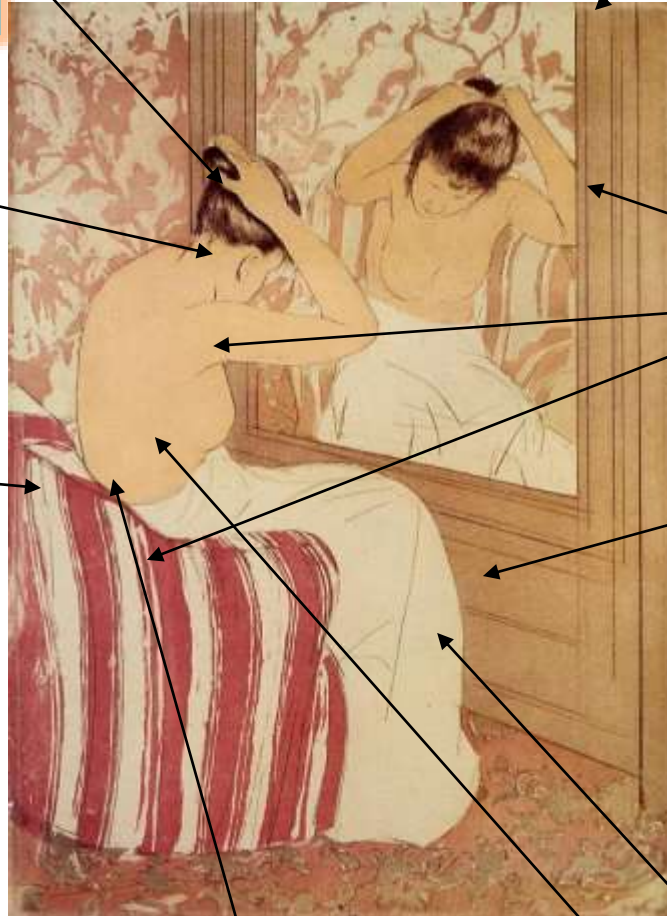
Cassatt drew the voyeuristic element of the scene from precedents in works by Rembrandt and Ingres. She studied these at the Louvre when she was a young student

The lines in the couch and straight lines on the walls and the mirror, provide a contrast to the young woman's curved body figure.

The Artist, Mary Cassatt, was inspired by Japanese wood block prints that she had seen at the Ecole des Beaux-Art. She was fascinated by the everyday themes and pure beauty depicted in the wood block prints.

The Subject of this piece is the woman's body. It, however, is not sexualized like the women depicted in Ingres and Rembrandt's art work.

The curves of the woman's back and neck mimic the curve of the chair. Cassatt also uses pastels which she enjoyed using in a lot of her work.



References

Mrs. McCullough's PowerPoint from the blog
[Marycassatt.org/ The-Coiffure-\(study\).html](http://Marycassatt.org/The-Coiffure-(study).html)
<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/becoming-modern/avant-garde-france/impressionism/a/cassatt-the-coiffure>