



# Olga Boznańska

*The Grey Painter*



## Wprowadzenie

Olga Boznańska was a fascinating and talented painter. She was intelligent and stubborn, and controversial.

Famous for her romantic affairs, she lived in her own world of sad, grey paintings.



# Najważniejsze informacje

Full name and surname:

Olga Helena Karolina Boznańska

Date and place of birth:

15 April 1865 in Crocow, Poland

Date and place of death:

26 October 1940 in Paris, France





# Timeline

Her father was Polish but her mother was French. It was her mum who taught her how to draw and paint.

Olga's parents gave her and her sister full education, especially artistic, although her dad was an engineer.

They used to live in Cracow.

The Boznanskis' family house in Cracow.

A collection of various paintbrushes and a palette with colorful paint strokes. The brushes have different handles and bristles, some are wooden, some are metal. The palette is covered in thick, textured paint in various colors like red, orange, blue, and green.

## *The beginnings of artistic life*

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As a young girl she travelled with her parents around Europe visiting famous art galleries.

In Cracow she started studies in Baraniecki Art College for Ladies – the first and only high school for ladies at the time.



When she was 21 she left Poland and started art studies in Munich in Germany.

State universities did not allow women as students so she attended private lessons of painting.

She was quite successful in Germany, when she was 30 she became the head of Painting School but three years later she left Munich and settled in Paris.

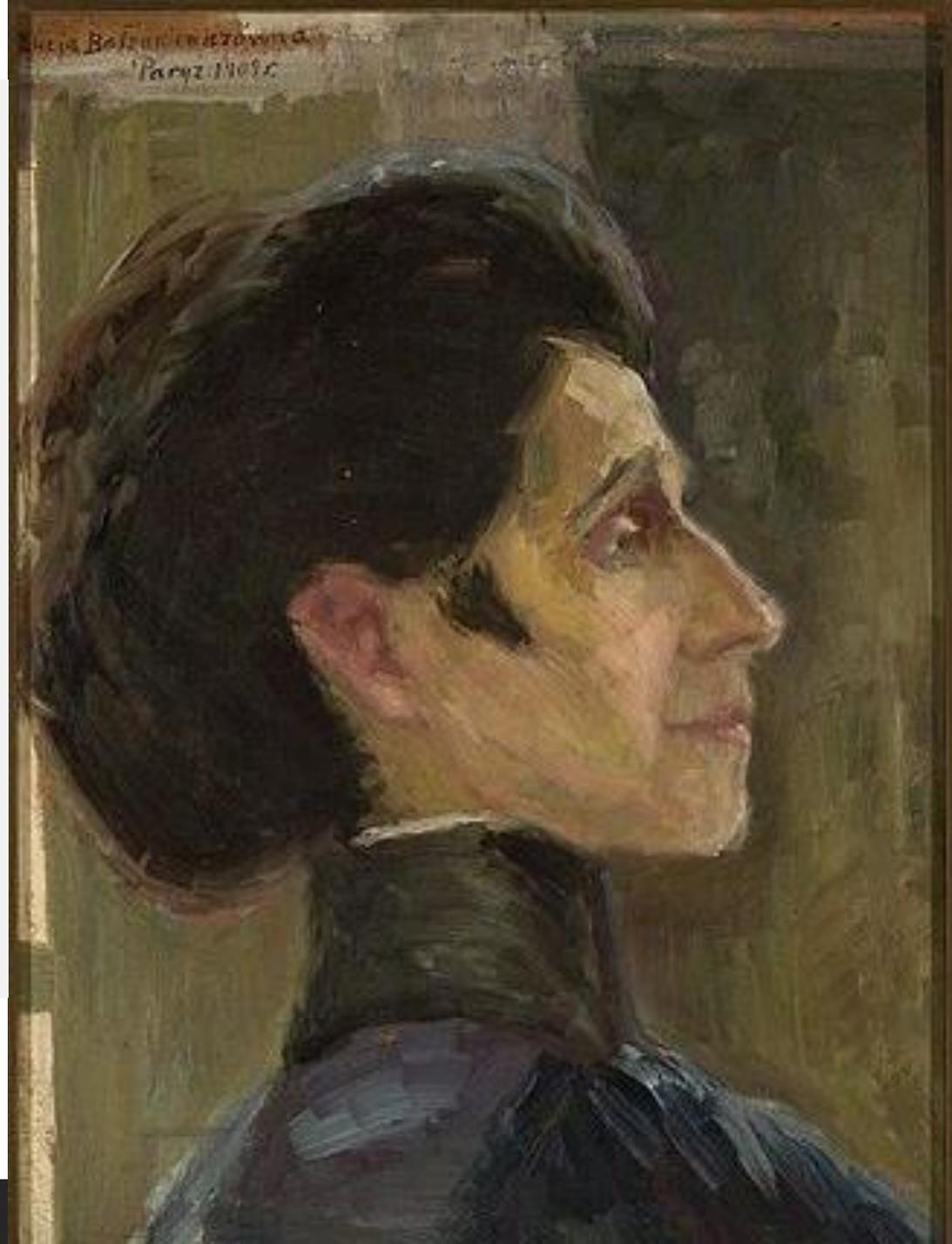


## *Paris, France*

She lived in Montparasse and was the member of different art societies. Her style put her in a high position in the artistic world of Paris.

She decided that her best colours were dim, greyish, vague ones.

She best liked painting portraits.



Łucja Bałzukiewicz, Portret Olgi Boznańskiej, 1909

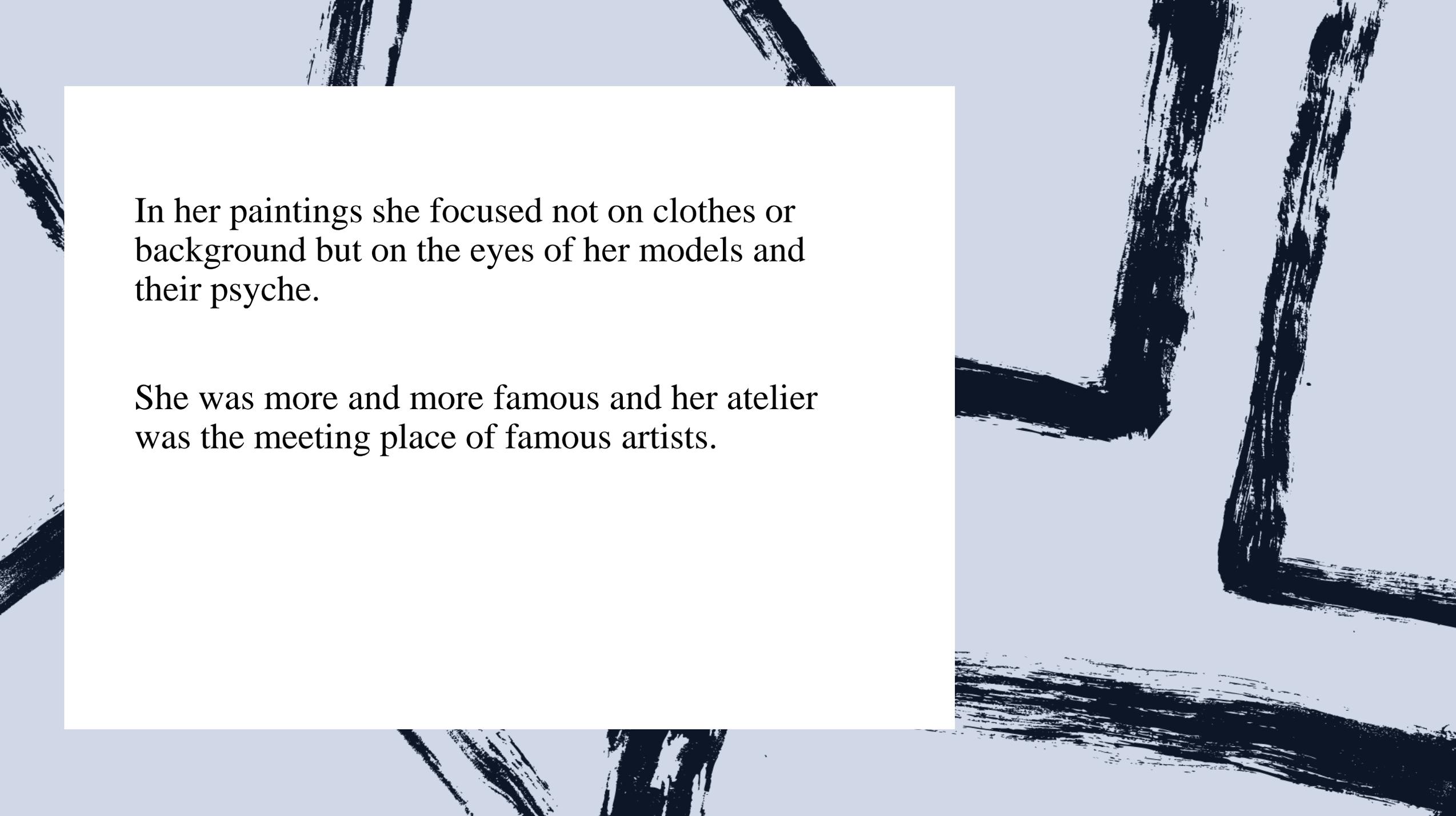


## *Paris and Cracow*

Boznańska became more and more famous, her paintings were included to the famous Luxemburg Collection.

She often visited Cracow, but many people in Poland did not like her portraits at first. They thought that her style is dark and sad.

Finally, everybody recognised her as a great painter.



In her paintings she focused not on clothes or background but on the eyes of her models and their psyche.

She was more and more famous and her atelier was the meeting place of famous artists.

Józef Czajkowski was Olga Boznańska's friend and later her fiancée.

He was much younger than Olga but they were a couple for 9 years.

Finally Olga decided that she does not want to get married and they split up.



Michał du Laurans, Portret Józefa Czajkowskiego | 1901,

Her next boyfriend was Franciszek Mączyński who was also 9 years younger.

But again Olga was deep in her art. And her own life and after 6 years of waiting for her, Mr Mączyński also gave up.

From that moment Boznańska was left only with her art and her family.



Olga Boznańska "Portret Franciszka Mączyńskiego", 1902 rok, źródło: Muzeum Narodowe w Warszawie

# Her portraits

Olga Boznańska "Amazonka (Portret siostry)", 1891



Olga Boznańska "Portret siostry Izy Boznańskiej",  
1887 rok, źródło: Agra-Art



Sometimes she also  
painted still life or  
landscapes  
but not very often.



Olga Boznańska "Śpiący pies", przed 1902 rokiem, źródło: Muzeum Narodowe w Warszawie



She was so famous and recognised in Paris that she was given the most important French medal the Legion d'Honneur.

Her paintings together with Monet's and Renoir's were exhibited in the best Art Galleries in the world.

## *Her most important works of art.*

„Flower Girls” (1889),

„Silver girl” (1890),

„Autoportrait with a Japanese umbrella”(1892),

„Paniter Paula Neuena” (1893),

„Girl with Chrysanthemums” (1894),

„Portrait of Miss Dygat” (1903),

„Inside the atelier” (1913),

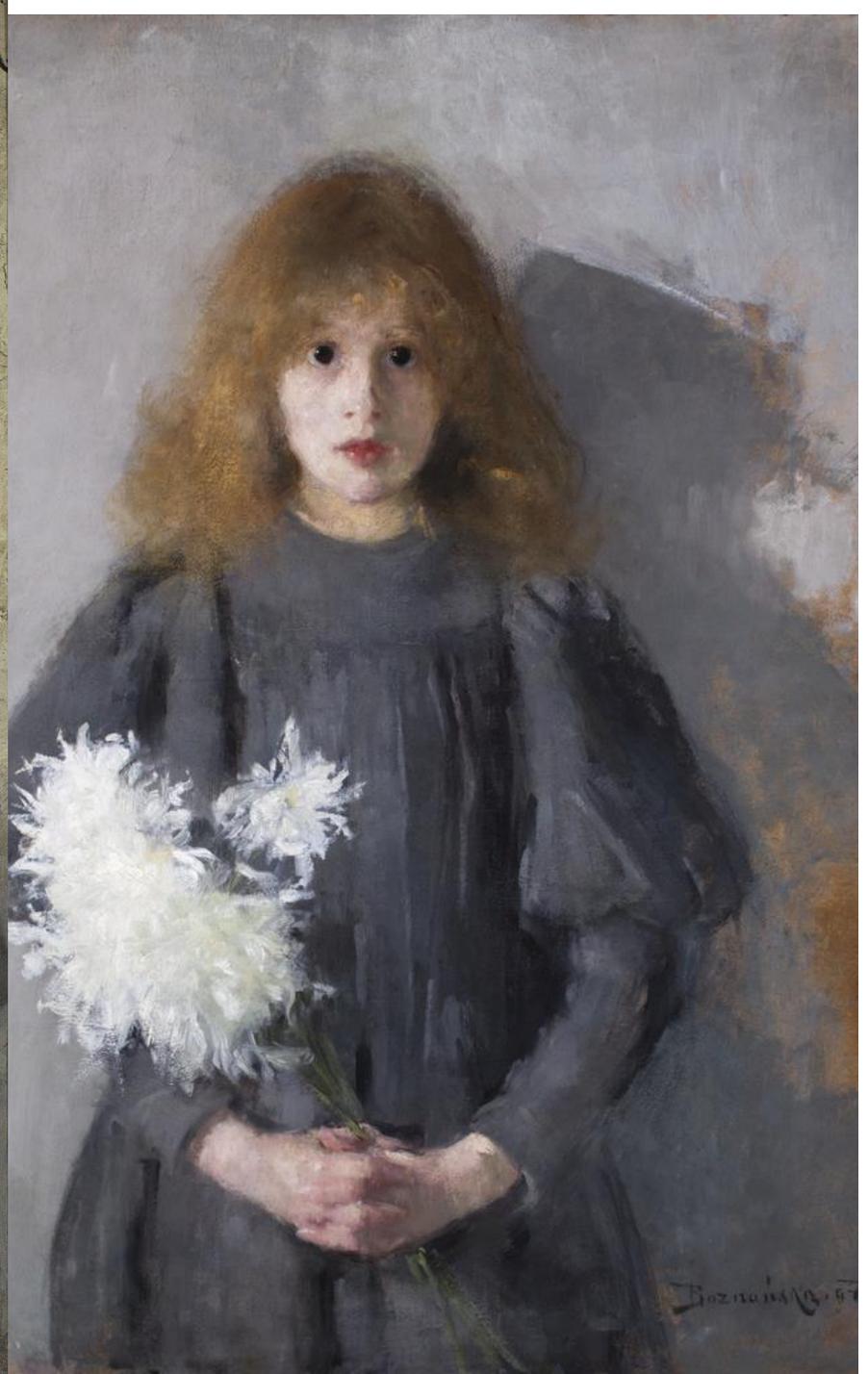
„Still life with white flowers and Japanese doll” (1918)



Portret malarza Paula Neuena”



Autoportret z japońską parasolką



## What was she like?

She used to always follow her own path.

She did not like fashionable trends and she believed only in the power of art.

She was very friendly and helping and she hated violence.

After the First World War, even when all women chose short dresses and short hair, she believed in traditional way.

Also in art she did not want to introduce changes.



Olga Boznańska with her Dog ca 1930



## **Late period**

At the end of her life Boznańska was not so popular because new trends dominated the world of art.

However in 1937 she received Grand Prix on Paris exhibition and in Venice she sold five paintings one of whose was bought by the King of Italy.

She died alone but not unhappy as all her life she did what she decided to do and was always faithful to herself.

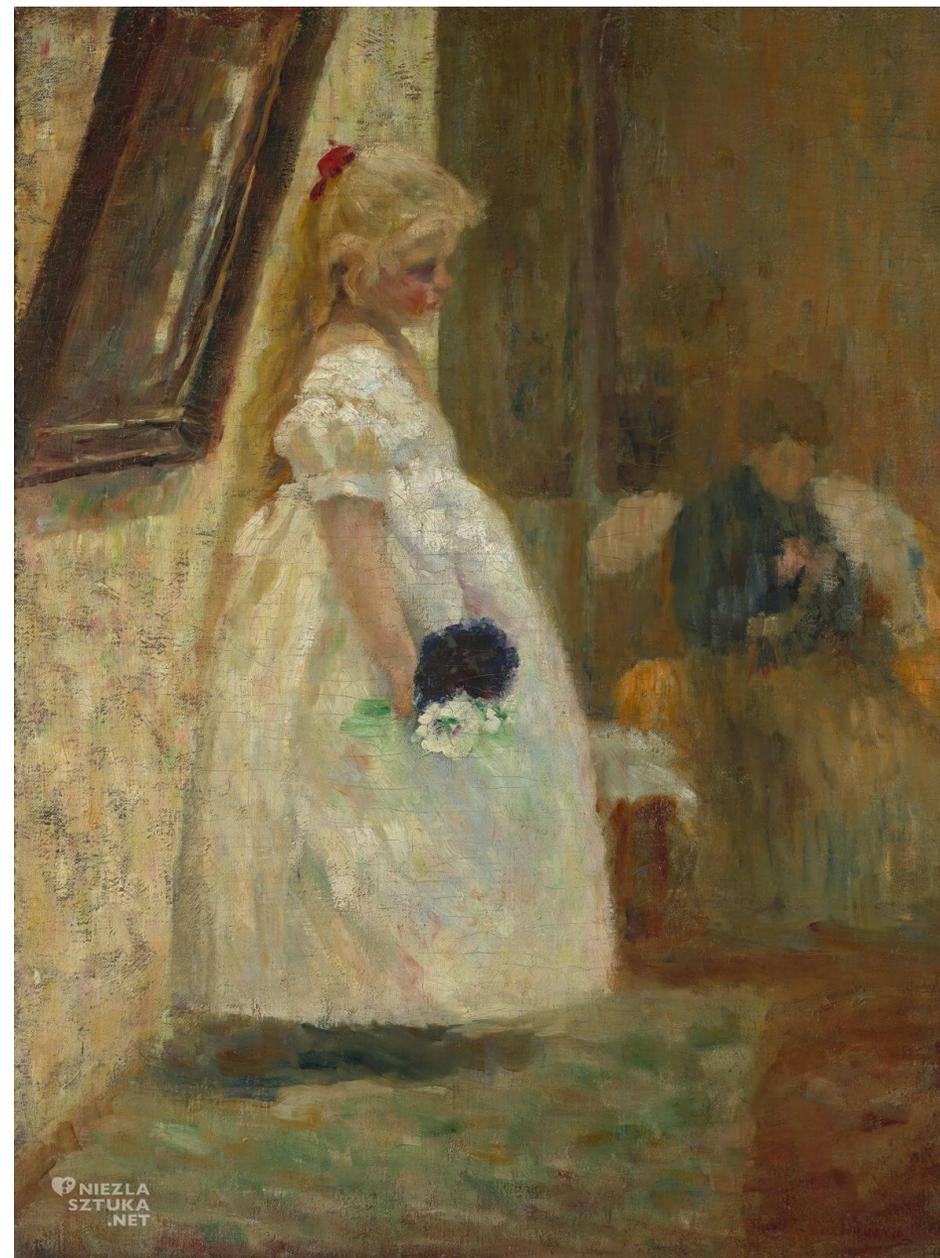
Olga Boznańska  
is the most famous  
and the most  
eminent  
Polsh painter



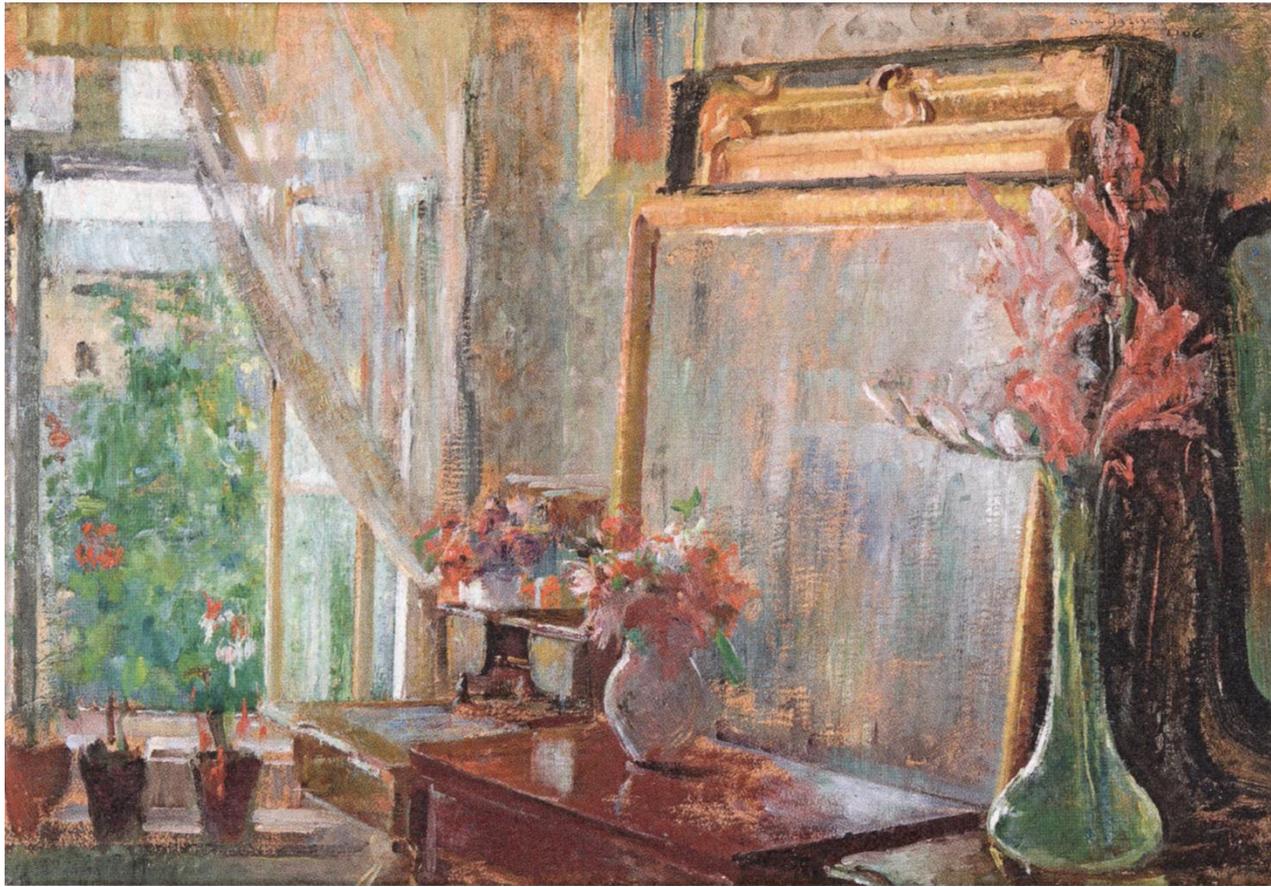
Olga Boznańska with her friends and Cui-Cui doggy.



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# The End

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