



Albert Neuhuys, *The Happy Mother*, 1874,  
oil on wood, 35.6 x 25.5 cm, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Dutch artist Albert Neuhuys (1844–1914) and Anton Mauve (1838–1888) founded the Laren School of painting, which flourished in the village of Laren, in the Netherlands, and promoted Dutch Impressionism in the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries. Neuhuys's interest in farm subjects inspired this picture of a mother holding her child in her arms in a modestly decorated corner of a kitchen or common room. The dark and unevenly coloured walls of the plain interior, the simple wooden furniture and the woman's rural clothing suggest a village setting. The solemn interior is juxtaposed with the warmth and affection between the mother and child, who gaze at each other tenderly. The teapot on the table suggests that the mother is enjoying a leisurely moment with her infant child.

Camille Devaux