

# Edgar Degas

1834 Paris - 1917 Paris

About: Degas began to paint as a child and at the age of 18 converted a room in his house into an Artists Studio. His father wanted him to study law - he was uninterested but registered at University of Paris. Later aged 21 after Ingres, he studied at Ecole des Beaux Arts and later travelled to Italy for 3 years studying Renaissance Masterpieces.

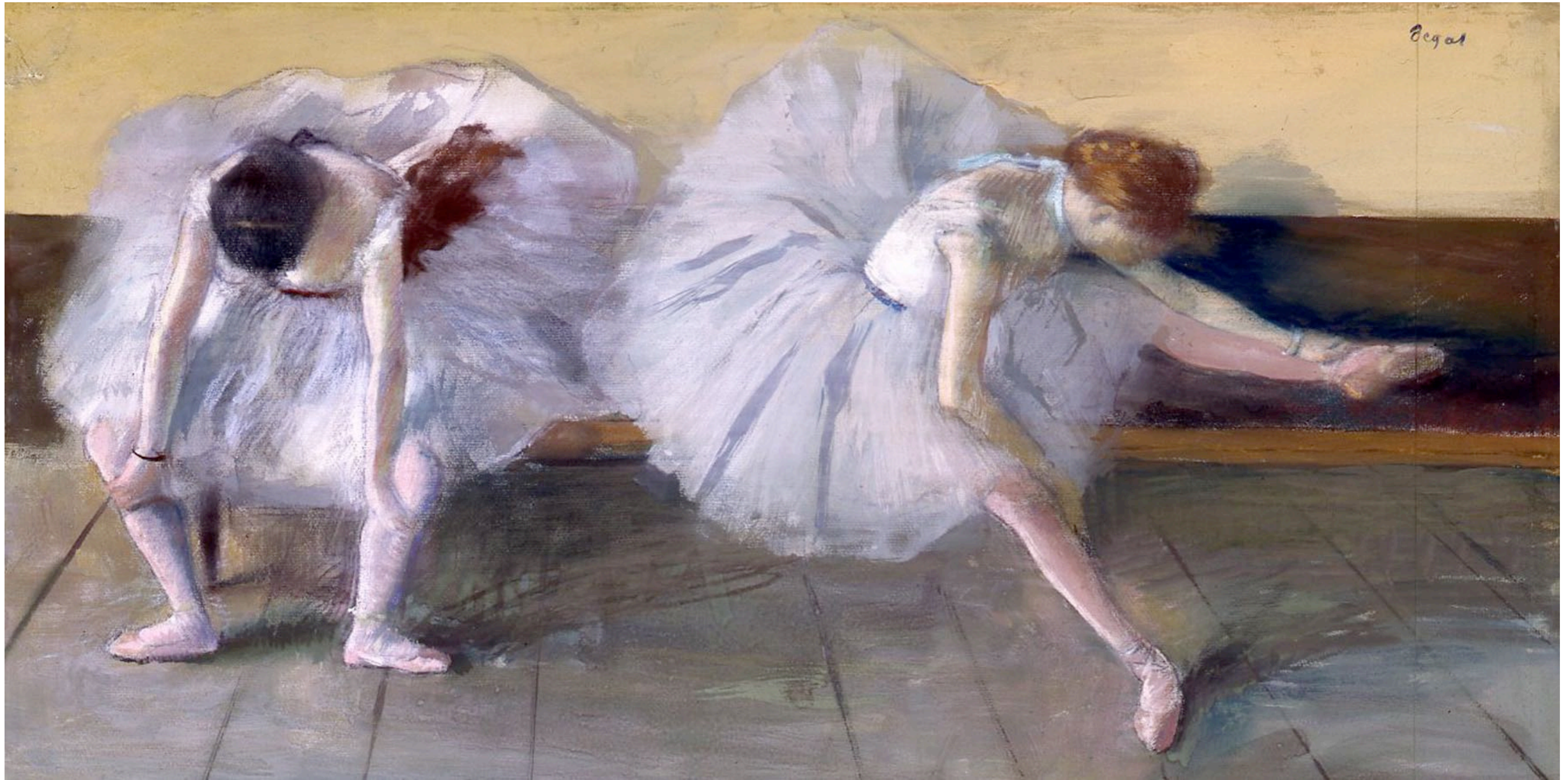
On returning to Paris and getting a big studio he painted historical work for commissions and the Salon. He met Manet (and after National Service in Franco-Prussian War) he joined young group of Artists later known as the Impressionists. He said he was not an Impressionist Painter! And mocked their 'en plein air' techniques. He worked directly from the old masters and reflection until he started observation of everyday contemporary - horseriders, dancers and people at work.

This changed his colour Palette and 'freezing moments' to portray a sense of movement. With an interest in photography and mastering pastels his painting showed new angles and layers of texture. His later works include sculptures and nudes. His personal life was purposely kept private ' "the artist must live alone, and his private life must remain unknown"

He would often paint with Gouache or  
Tempera first and then add Pastel.  
He was also known to Melt pastel  
and then use it like a Paint.



Dancer taking a Bow. 1878. Pastel and Gouache on Paper. 81cm x 66cm

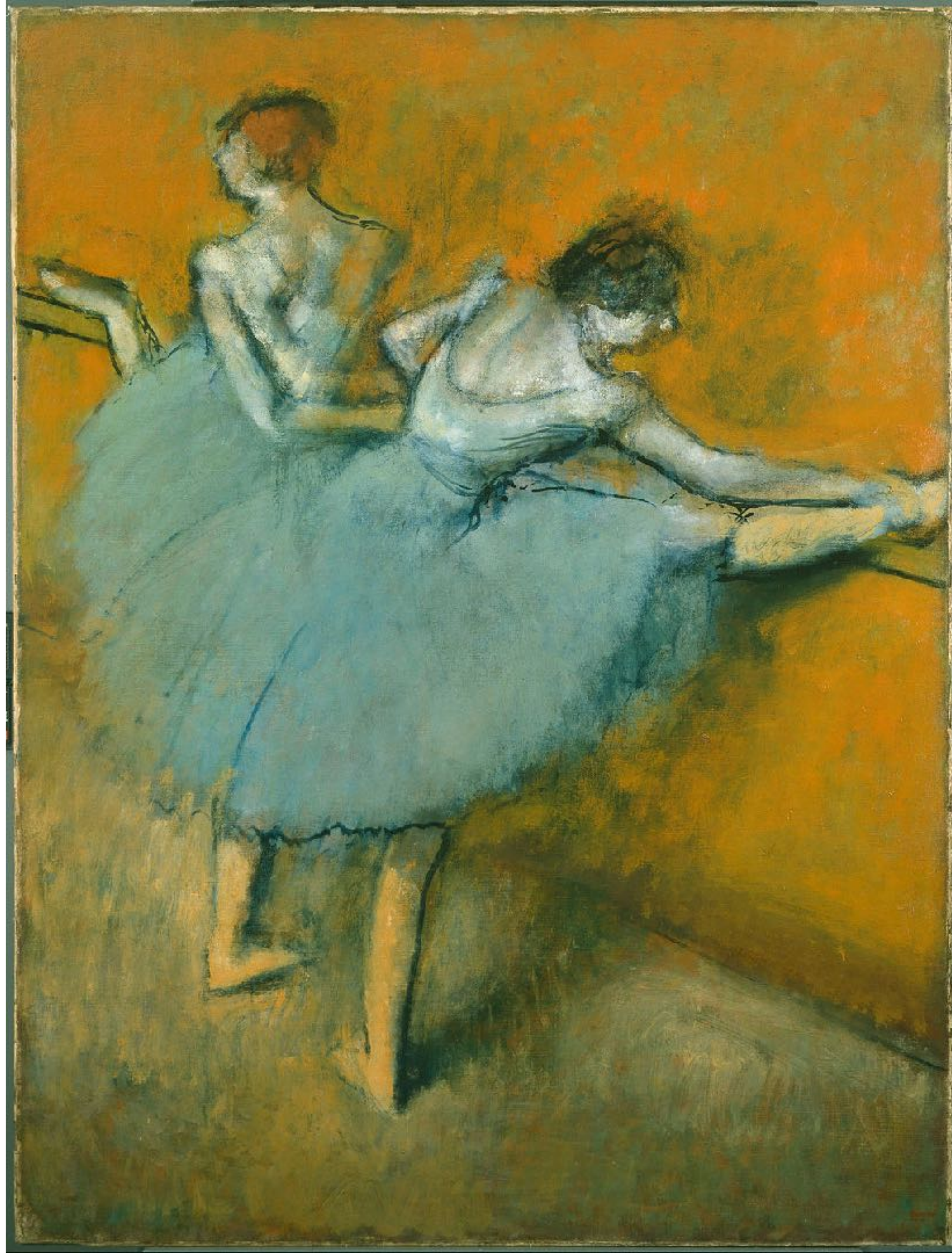


Deux danseuses, 1879. Pastel on Paper



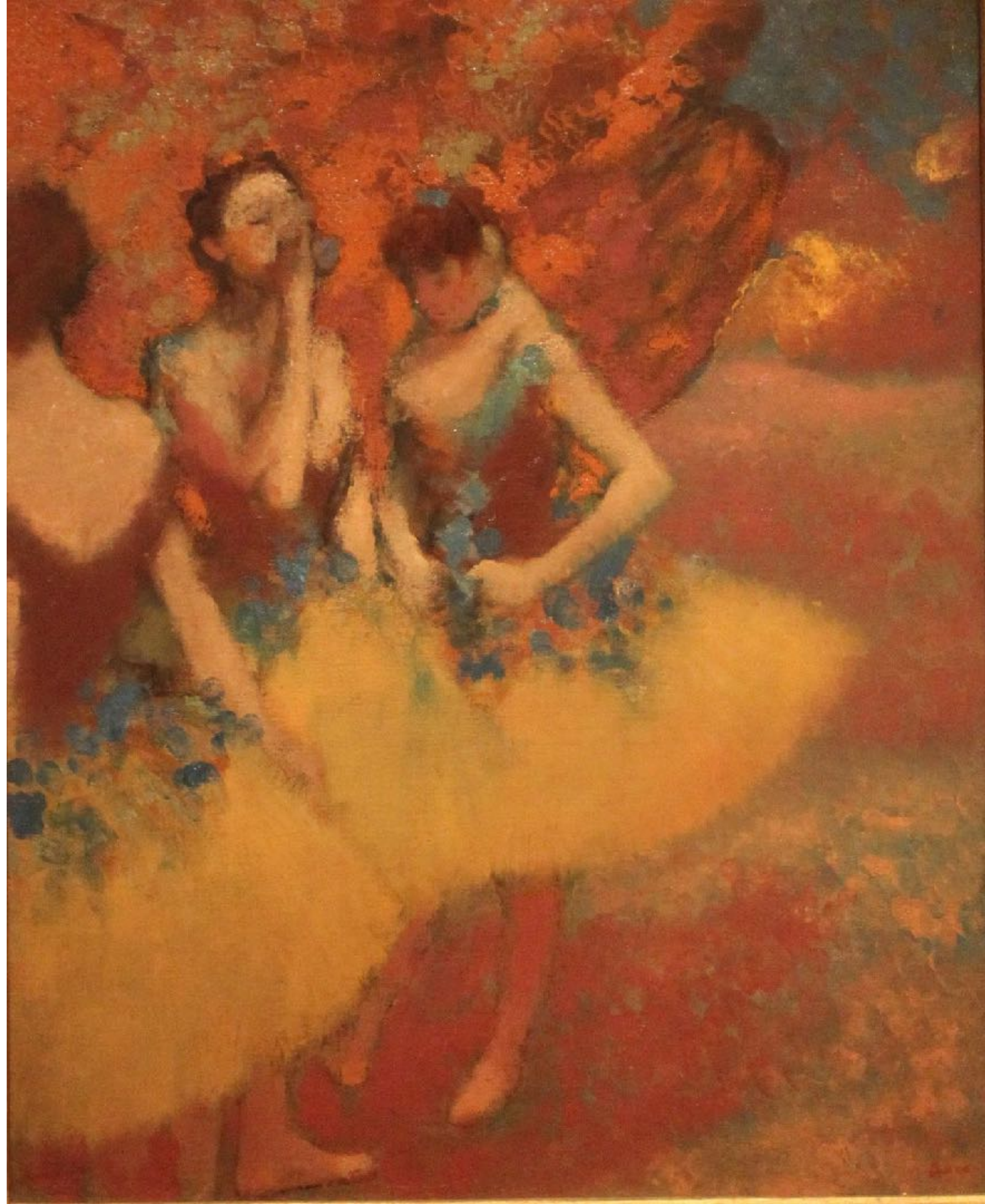
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngLj58Kx5p4>

The Dance Class (La Classe de Danse), 1873–1876, oil on canvas



He used Cool and warm layering

*Dancers at the Bar*, 1888, Oil on Canvas. 130.1 cm x 97.7 cm



Dancers in Yellow Skirts. 1891.

Oil on Canvas

Throughout the latter part of his career, Degas was obsessed with the restless beauty of the thoroughbred racehorse. Horse racing, which drew together throngs of people from many levels of society, was a singularly appropriate subject for representing modern life. Degas typically painted several versions of a composition, making slight variations in each. Here, riders and horses are shown in quiet and agitated movement. By the 1880s, Degas was making good use of recently published, stop-action photographs, which captured movement too fleeting to be perceived by the naked eye and which increased the artist's understanding of the horse in motion.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Edgar\\_Degas\\_-\\_Before\\_the\\_Race\\_-\\_Walters\\_37850.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Edgar_Degas_-_Before_the_Race_-_Walters_37850.jpg)





Before the Race. 1882 -1884

Oil on Panel

26.4 cm (10.3 in); Width: 34.9 cm



Race Horses 1885-88. Pastel on Wood. 30.2 x 40.6 cm



Racehorses before the Stands 1872. 46x61cm oil/canvas



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rJoB7y6Ncs>

