

## *A Mother's Day Tour at the MFAH*

Celebrate the special relationship between mother and child through imagery in the MFAH art collections. This tour showcases figures and paintings from across the globe. Pick up a map at any MFAH information desk—you'll find the gallery location for each work of art listed here, below the title.



**JALISCO, MEXICO *Kneeling Woman Nursing a Baby***

Law Building (Gallery 208M)

*300 BC–AD 300, ceramic, gift of Mrs. Harry C. Hanszen*

The ancient peoples of West Mexico placed ceramics in graves to accompany the dead in the afterlife. Female figures embodied the concepts of fertility, lineage, and community continuance. This kneeling woman wears a turban and elaborately decorated skirt. She proudly displays her baby. As a mother nursing her child, she symbolizes the mythical womb of the earth, the source of all life.



**YORUBA, AFRICA *Mother-and-Child Figure***

Law Building (Gallery 205M)

*late 19th century, wood and traces of indigo, museum purchase with funds provided by the Alice Pratt Brown Museum Fund*

The theme of mother and child is popular in sub-Saharan African art and especially prominent in the art of the Yoruba people. This shrine figure was commissioned as an offering of thanks to a god for a personal favor or service rendered. Yoruba art stresses naturalism, strong forms, and sensitivity to human relationships. This figure offers a delightful contrast between the intent, thoughtful expression of the mother and the inquisitive, curious face of the child, who looks off in another direction.



**FRANÇOIS PASCAL SIMON GÉRARD *Portrait of Louise-Antoinette-Scholastique Guéhéneuc, Madame la Maréchale Lannes, Duchesse de Montebello, with Her Children***

Beck Building (Gallery 220)

*1814, oil on canvas, museum purchase with funds provided by the Brown Foundation Accessions Endowment Fund and the Alice Pratt Brown Museum Fund*

This commissioned portrait depicts the widow and children of Jean Lannes, one of Napoleon's greatest generals. After Lannes was killed in battle, the duchess continued as part of the inner circle of Napoleon's court, but eventually she withdrew, devoting herself principally to her five children. Ernest, the boy with the rackets, is the direct ancestor of Philippe de Montebello, a former director of both the MFAH and New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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**GIOVANNI GIACOMETTI *Young Mother***

Beck Building (Gallery 223)

*1910, oil on canvas, gift of Audrey Jones Beck*

In the 19th and 20th centuries, artists captured intimate and impressionistic portraits of mothers and children, such as this painting by Swiss painter Giovanni Giacometti of a young mother nursing her baby.



**WILLIAM MERRITT CHASE *Mother and Child (The First Portrait)***

Beck Building (Gallery 103)

*c. 1888, oil on canvas, gift of Ehrich Newhouse Gallery, New York*

In the earliest study of his daughter, American artist William Merritt Chase experiments with delicate tonal harmonies of black on black. The resulting portrait captures an intimate moment between mother and child.

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