

Eva Gonzales (1847–1883)

Éva Gonzalès, who was born in Paris on 19 April 1847 and died on 6 May 1883, was a French painter. Her father was Emmanuel Gonzalès, a novelist and feuilletonist for the newspaper *Le Siècle*, who was born to a Monegasque father.

Early painting career and influence of Manet

In 1865, at the age of 16, she began studying with Charles Chaplin, the French painter with English roots, before joining Edouard Manet's studio in 1869. Like Berthe Morisot, she was both a student and model for Manet.

She exhibited her work for the first time at the Salon in 1870 and received a very positive response from critics. At the same Salon, Manet presented his *Portrait of Eva Gonzalès*, in which she was depicted seated and painting a still life.

At the forefront of Impressionism

During the Franco-Prussian war in 1870, she lived in Dieppe, where she painted portraits in a similar style to Manet, and landscapes.

Despite the increasing shift towards an Impressionist style in her painting, she always refused to participate in the Impressionist exhibitions, following the lead of her mentor, Manet.

Together with Berthe Morisot and Mary Cassatt, she is one of the trio of women who contributed to the early development of Impressionism.

She married the painter and engraver Henri Guérard in 1879. Eva Gonzalès sometimes used her husband and very often used her younger sister Jeanne as models in several of her paintings. Her mother, a musician, also features in her work.

Links with Monaco

The Gonzalès family, who had Hispanic roots, settled in Monaco during the Spanish protectorate from 1524 to 1641. François Gonzalès is recorded as having been a member of the French garrison at the fortress from 1619. Eva was the daughter of Emmanuel Gonzalès (1815–1887), a Monegasque national who was born in Saintes due to his father's career as an army doctor. Emmanuel was a famous writer and feuilletonist of the time. He founded and chaired the *Société des Gens de Lettres* writers' association, and celebrated his home country in *Mes jardins de Monaco (My Gardens of Monaco)*. Since 1895, the road (now a lane) in Larvotto on which the family home was located has been named after him, and a bronze bust of the writer was erected in the Saint-Martin Gardens in 1954. A retrospective of Eva Gonzalès' work was exhibited in Monte-Carlo in 1952.