Modigliani Up Close
October 16, 2022–January 29, 2023

Overview

This exhibition examines the methods and materials of Italian artist Amedeo Modigliani (1884–1920), who is celebrated for his signature portraits that feature elongated features and masklike faces. The show combines art and science, allowing students to explore not just the “why” behind the art-making process, but also the “how.”

Glossary

1. Art conservator: a museum professional who uses scientific techniques to study, preserve, and restore artworks.
2. Modernism: an artistic movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, in which artists began to reject the idea that subjects must be depicted realistically.
3. Oeuvre: an artist’s collective body of artwork.
4. School of Paris: also known as “École de Paris,” this term describes the group of foreign-born artists living and working in Paris in the early 20th century.
5. X-ray fluorescence: an imaging method used in conservation to examine the elemental composition of artworks, illuminating details such as the chemical makeup of pigments.

About the Artist

Modigliani was an Italian-born artist who moved to Paris during the height of the modernism movement. There, he joined the ranks of the School of Paris artists alongside Picasso, Matisse, and Soutine. A pioneer of modern portraiture, his recognizable style transcends artistic genres, pulling inspiration from expressionism, surrealism,
and cubism. Like fellow artist Van Gogh, Modigliani did not achieve commercial success during his lifetime, but is now praised for his artwork. Though his life was tragically short, his artistic genius is preserved in the paintings and sculptures on view in *Modigliani Up Close*.

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**The Science of Art**

*Modigliani Up Close* analyzes the artist’s work through a (metaphorical and literal) microscopic lens. By exposing students to the inner workings of art conservation and the technical methodologies used by artists themselves, we hope to spark discussions in your classroom about the intersections of art and science.

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**Featured Artwork**

![Amedeo Modigliani. *Elvira Resting at a Table*, c. 1918–19](image)

Saint Louis Art Museum, Gift of Joseph Pulitzer, Jr., in memory of his wife, Louise Vauclain Pulitzer
Amedeo Modigliani. *Jeanne Hébuterne*, 1919
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Nate B. Spingold, 1956

Amedeo Modigliani. *Head*, 1911–12

Minneapolis Institute of Art. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. John Cowles