**Female artists had a problem…**

Painting the nude was THE BIG THING for shows and awards, but they had no access to life classes to learn how ☹

BUT WAIT! Some schools start admitting women or are “women only” Yay!

**Drawbacks?** Women still under a lot of pressure to be “nice ladies” even if they are drawing partially draped male nudes. (One women so shocked, she runs out to throw up! It was stressful) Also women sometimes have to pay 2x. Also dissections!

Where to go for real training? **PARIS!**

Gwen Johns and Paula Moderson-Becker go there and paint nudes…even self-portrait nudes. *All the honeys, makin’ money*… Well, some money (PMB sold three paintings in her life and GJ models nude when her dad cuts off her $$)… from their art.

Paris is not all awesomeness. Can get a bad reputation or end up having a disastrous love affair (like GJ with Rodin whom she modeled for).

JS argues that their nudes are not like the standard “pretty pretty” academy nudes that you were supposed to paint. Painted an individual with a personality and emotions, not just a “nude”. Also influenced by new modernist trends in painting.

\*\*\*\*Wavey dissolving effect\*\*\*\*

Back before this, women in Britain who did get training to paint nudes made more conventional images.

Ex: **Henrietta Rae** and other artists of the “Classical Revival” had to figure out how to paint the nude… but a) lacked some training and b) “nice girls don’t do that!” Don’t “pervert” your “artistic gifts”

Q. What to do?

A. Make it **super** pretty.

But then criticized for being a fluffy confection and not serious (SHE WORKED ON IT FOR TWO YEARS!)

THINGS THEY TRIED TO GET ACCESS:

-set up their own life drawing classes to compensate for only learning to draw the nude from classical sculptures

-Rae also got male artists (like Lord Leighton) to mentor her

-Finally she and her husband get to Paris to study with Benjamin-Constant and, but it is hard to adopt at new style

-Petitioned the Royal Academy for access to life classes

**Annie Swynnerton** was able to adopt and experiment with new techniques and styles

Her nudes less “made of marble” nudes (veins! “quivering reality” “coarse and blubbered” “without sweetness”!)

AS Won a prize and used $ to study in Rome w/bff “Art Sister” Isabel Dacre

They founded institutions (MSWP) and societies to promote women and art (also suffragists! Yay voting!)

Married a sculptor and hung out with big artists of the times *(John Singer Sargent called her a genius!!)*

At 78 she is the first female associate member of the Royal Academy (at last!)

“I have had to struggle so hard”

Inspired next generation…

**Laura Knight** and **Charlotte Berend-Columb** who actually paint themselves painting the nude… guys had been doing this for ages)

LK’s nude model in her life-sized canvas was her friend and fellow-artist

Male critics panned it “harmless enough” dull, vulgar, it never sold… but was snagged by the National Portrait Gallery when she died

LK really did struggle. Her mom got her a spot in art school. LK brave enough to invite a male model for her. Said it was embarrassing because of social norms, but did it anyway.

Gained respectability and support and training by marrying another artist, like ALL the women in this article except Gwen John

LK becomes first full member of RA 1936

“Educational emancipation was the most crucial factor in providing female artists with the confidence and technique to express themselves in the form of female nude portraiture”