



MONTPARNASSE

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION FOR TEACHERS

Amedeo Modigliani was one of the hundreds of artists, writers, composers, and art dealers from dozens of countries who lived in the bohemian section of Paris known as Montparnasse. The area was filled with cafés and restaurants where inhabitants gathered to socialize, and discuss art, politics, and other subjects of interest. Artists' studios were readily available, and café owners were often forgiving of debt. Since French artists won almost every prize at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, the official art school run by the French government, many of Modigliani's friends and colleagues, along with Modigliani himself, attended private art academies in Montparnasse. Modigliani's role as a central figure in life at Montparnasse in the early decades of the twentieth century is reflected in French writer Jean Cocteau's statement, "[The death of] Modigliani represented the end of great stylishness in Montparnasse, although we did not realize it at the time."

In addition to the artists from Italy, Spain, Romania, Mexico, and other countries living in Montparnasse, many French painters and sculptors could also be found there. One of these artists was Robert Delaunay, whose work *Sun, Tower, Airplane, 1913*, in the Gallery's permanent collection, is the subject of one of the three lesson plans in this packet.

To learn more about Modigliani and the other artists of Montparnasse, visit www.whoismodi.com.