

Tamara De Lempicka

A concise collector's companion to this artist's page on TryArtwork.

Tamara De Lempicka (1898 – 1980) was a Polish painter associated with Art Deco. Their work is recognised for stylized Portraits.

Portrait

Portrait

At a Glance

Nationality	Polish
Lifespan	1898 – 1980
Movement	Art Deco
School	Académie de la Grande Chaumière
Best known for	Stylized Portraits
Core subjects	Portraiture, Figurative Art
Medium	Oil
Central collection	Musée des Années Trente

Signature Style & How to Recognize It

Sleek, sculptural figures rendered with chrome-like polish. Metallic silver-blues, deep greens, crimson reds. Urban geometric backgrounds — skyscrapers, curved car hoods, folded drapery. Faces with heavy-lidded eyes and glossy red lips. A synthesis of classical solidity and machine-age glamour. Every surface — skin, fabric, metal — rendered with the same hard brilliance. The defining visual language of 1920s–30s Art Deco.

Career Timeline

Revolutionary Flight (1917–1918)

Fled Russia with her husband after the Revolution.

Paris Apprenticeship (1918–1923)

Studied with Maurice Denis and André Lhote at the Académie Ranson.

Art Deco Peak (1925–1935)

Portraits of European aristocracy and Hollywood; autoportrait with the Green Bugatti.

American Period (1939–1962)

Moved to Beverly Hills; flower still lifes and palette-knife abstractions.

Mexican Final Years (1974–1980)

Settled in Cuernavaca; ashes scattered over the Popocatepetl volcano.

Museums & Collections

- Centre Pompidou, Paris — major Art Deco holdings.
- Museum of Modern Art, Nagoya, Japan.
- Private collections of Madonna, Jack Nicholson, and Barbra Streisand — widely documented.
- Pinacothek der Moderne, Munich.
- Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid.

Famous Works to Know

- **Autoportrait**
- **Portrait of Madame Boucard**

Artist's Own Words

"I live life in the margins of society, and the rules of normal society do not apply to those who live on the fringe."

Why This Artist Is Difficult to Reproduce

Lempicka's polish is unforgiving. Her skin and fabric surfaces are rendered with an enamel-like smoothness that shows any hesitation in brushwork. The sculptural modelling of her figures requires precise control of highlight and shadow, particularly in her silver-blue ranges. Backgrounds of architectural geometry must be drawn with straightedge discipline while flesh demands classical draughtsmanship. Reproducing Lempicka means mastering both the sharpness of Art Deco design and the subtlety of academic figure painting.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Tamara De Lempicka best known for?

Stylized Portraits. Core subjects: Portraiture, Figurative Art.

Where can I see original works by Tamara De Lempicka?

Centre Pompidou, Paris, Museum of Modern Art, Nagoya, Japan, Private collections of Madonna, Jack Nicholson, and Barbra Streisand, Pinacothek der Moderne, Munich, Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid.

Which paintings by Tamara De Lempicka are the most famous?

Autoportrait, Portrait of Madame Boucard.

Why are reproductions of Tamara De Lempicka difficult?

Lempicka's polish is unforgiving.

Explore More

This guide is a short companion to Tamara De Lempicka's page on TryArtwork, where you can find further notes on their life, style and most celebrated works.

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