



Johannes Vermeer, Girl with a Pearl Earring, 1665

Johannes Vermeer's 1665 study of a young woman is startlingly real and startlingly modern, almost as if it were a photograph. The sitter is unknown, though it's been speculated that she might have been Vermeer's maid. He portrays her looking over her shoulder, locking her eyes with the viewer as if attempting to establish an intimate connection across the centuries.