

# **Student Essay on The Sculpture of Edgar Degas**

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# Essay

Some of 19th Century artists are famous, however many more are not. This is an artist who is not very well known, his name is Edgar Degas.

This is a sculpture done by him, this is his only sculpture that he would exhibit to the public. It is called "The little dancer aged fourteen."

It is made out of a wood base. It is also made out of yellow wax, hair and many other different materials.

This sculpture has an obvious story about a fourteen year old dancer (given away in the name) however I think that it gives more of a story about, both the fourteen year old girl and the artist. I think that the artist is very intrigued by the story of the little girl, and that he has researched information about her and how she died. From her clothes she does not look very rich, therefore I think there is a sad story about her death being too poor, or having to give up a lot of daily life things for her dancing. She looks like a good dancer, as she has posture and she seems to be pointing one foot out slightly to show her natural love for dance, however I think that this girl was not very happy as her face does not have a smile on it, and her eyes look very scrunched up, as if they were about to cry.

Whereas other girls her age would, usually, be smiling, or giving more of an exciting or happy facial expression. It is strange, as her love for dancing and her posture are all natural, her facial expressions and her happiness is not, as you can see to the left (a close up of her face), I found this very surprising and shocking and wondered why this was, however I think this is hard to find out.

I like "The little dancer aged fourteen" sculpture as it looks like it has been carefully made, but I don't think I would like it in my home, as it does not look very attractive.