Mary Cassatt was an American painter who lived in France from 1844 to 1926. She was a member of the Impressionist movement and is known for her portraits and scenes of everyday life. Cassatt was a trailblazer for women in the art world, and she was one of the first female artists to gain recognition for her work. She was also a close friend and collaborator of Edgar Degas, another prominent Impressionist artist. Cassatt's compositions are characterized by their intimacy and tenderness, and they often depict women in domestic settings. Cassatt's work was influenced by Japonisme, the fascination with Japanese art objects that was popular in Europe at the time. Cassatt's art is celebrated for its sensitivity and its depiction of the private lives of women.
MARY CASSATT
American, active in France, 1844–1926

WOMAN READING
1878–79, oil on canvas

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Museum purchase, 1943.38