



**Two Dancers on A Stage** (Edgar Degas, 1874, Courtauld Institute of Art, London). French impressionist Edgar Degas was justifiably famous for his "through the keyhole" paintings of the arduous life of Parisian ballerinas. In this painting the fact that we are viewing the action from above and to the side instantly draws us into the picture and makes us feel like we are sitting in theater box. Degas experimented with this kind of unconventional composition as well as with the dynamic depiction of movement, for which he is also famous. However beautiful and engaging this painting may be, Degas missed a major opportunity to substantially enhance it with the addition of a gorgeous, graceful dancing Hound. As you can see the insertion of the Hound adds new interest to a scene that is so familiar to admirers of Degas (although I must say, I think the tutu makes me look fat). Anyway we can fully admire the grace and beauty of the Hound with his swan-like neck in full extension, his delicate feet positioned en avant and his manly attributes boldly displayed. ("Two Dancers On a Stage")