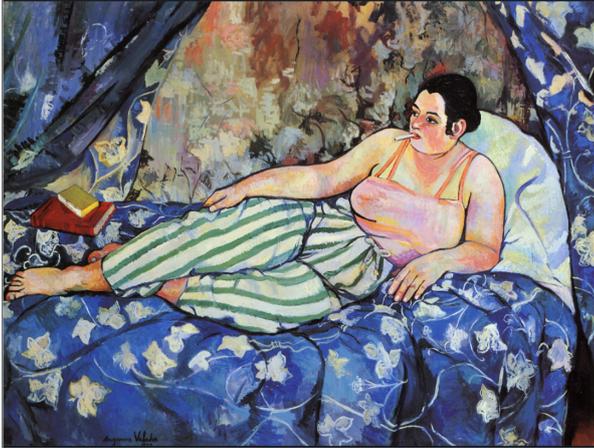


<p>Suzanne Valadon, <i>The Blue Room,</i> 1923, oil on canvas, 90 x 116 cm (35 x 46")</p>	<p>initial analysis</p>	
<p>A woman lies horizontally on a bed or draped couch wearing a strapped pink top garment and striped trousers fastened by a string in the fashion of pyjamas. Her feet are bare. She sits up from the horizontal using a pillow. The bed or couch is covered with a fabric in bright blue with yellow and white maple leaf pattern. On the left are two books. Behind her there is part of a decorated triangular board, the decoration repeats the maple leaf pattern on the fabric, but is more varied in its colours. Behind all this is a draped blue curtain-like fabric also partly using the maple leaf pattern.</p> <p>The woman has an unlit cigarette in her mouth. She is wearing eye make-up and lipstick. She has black hair tied behind her head.</p>	<p>The modelling of the figure has been achieved with a combination of colours and a strong black outline. The colours give provide a liveliness to the depiction and the thick lines provide a confident depiction. The swirl of lines and colour patches on the depicted fabrics give a sense of improvisation and joyous application.</p>  <p>The overall design of the furnishings with its triangular back shape gives a hint of a throne, but not with any sense of this being overdone.</p>	<p>The figure's posture and the general context of the picture, the cigarette, the decoration and the books, suggest urbanity. A sense of the fashionable and part of a group of women demonstrating equal opportunities in a male-dominated culture. Valadon had spent a large part of her early career as an artist's model, working with, among others, Puvis de Chavannes, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec.</p> <p>The figure reminds viewers of the perpetuated naked female model usually depicted as objects of desire by her male counterparts from a classical Western tradition of Venuses to their development in the nineteenth century.</p>
	<p>The painting is in the national collection of the Centre Pompidou, Paris.</p>	