Madeleine Rouart grew up in a family devoted to painting. Her grandfather, Henri Rouart, was one of the largest collectors of contemporary art of the period. His collection included works of Manet, Renoir, Degas amongst others. Her father, Alexis Rouart, was also a discerning collector and her uncle, Ernest Rouart, also a collector, married Julie Manet, daughter of Berthe Morisot and niece of Edouard Manet.

It was in this family environment surrounded by the leaders of Post Impressionism which profoundly influenced the paintings of Madeleine Rouart as she lived in a most privileged artistic atmosphere. Paul Valéry,* noted critic of the time said in his preface to her first exhibition at the Gallerie Bernheim in Paris in 1923:

"Madame ROUART passed her childhood surrounded by wonderful paintings. Art was one of the only subjects of conversation that she heard in her home; the walls were not seen; they were covered by marvells. Paintings by COROT, DAUMIER, DELACROIX and MANET covered all the available surfaces."

Madeleine Rouart began painting when she was thirteen years old: color crayons, pastels and watercolors. Her artistic talent was awakened at an early age and her sense of color and composition was innate. She was fortunate to be critiqued by the master post impressionists, Renoir, Manet, Dufy, and Degas, who visited her father’s home. A great friendship united her father with Degas who was a dinner guest in her father’s home every Friday night.

Most of her works are landscapes and flowers and she looked at them as a colorist, "I work fast and the color talks, I do a very light drawing first, colors are bright, the green luminous color gives the light to each composition." She became a master of floral expression and her watercolors reflected her feelings of landscapes which she painted while traveling to numerous places such as the Riviera, Algeria, etc.

Once again we can cite Paul Valéry, "The freshness and the clarity of her paintings came directly from life. We notice particularly the watercolors where she gives to all subjects (flowers and landscapes) an atmosphere and exquisite nuances. The 'brush' is frank, large and fine. The constructions are remarkable and pleasant, each work reveals a lot of sensitivity and compassion. Madeleine Rouart has to know that it is with real pleasure that I can state her evaluation as a true artist."

*Valéry, Paul André (1871-1945) renowned French poet, philosopher, and art critic.