Function:
To make artwork more accessible to all classes, created easily reproducible prints less expensive, widespread availability. Cassatt was advised against this, critics said it would make her art less valuable, but she insisted on this principle of art for the masses. Cassatt had a prescient understanding of how photography would come to affect the art world, and art can no longer be elitist and elusive it will be available “to the masses” whether artists like it or not, so it was smart of her to jump on board with the wave of technology rather than resist

Content:
female nude, intentionally left undetailed in order to not be erotic/sexualized
sitting in chair, facing mirror
woman is fixing her hair
decorative prints in background (carpet and wallpaper)
sign of Asian influence

Context:
Female nudes
Cassatt, as a female, offers a truer, more intimate perspective on the female nude
female nudes are generally painted by male artists, and the female body is intended for the male gaze
de-eroticizes the traditional boudoir scene (historically painted by men)
makes it more functional, a nonevent
private, personal

a feminine moment (fixing her hairstyle), intended for women, to be seen and understood by women, painted by a woman

Global expansion/influences: this was a time of increased contact and trade with the East
Europe was fascinated with Japan and this showed especially Impressionist and post-Impressionist art
shares characteristics with Japanese prints: watery brushstrokes, 2-dimensional, rosy, faded colors, ornamental, leafy/flowery patterning