

A woman with blue eyes and red lips, wearing a black wide-brimmed hat and a white silk dress, is sitting in a car at night. The background is filled with warm, bokeh lights, suggesting a city street or a festive event. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

**The Glamorous Life  
of  
Tamara De Lempicka**

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# Early Life and Aristocratic Beginnings

**Tamara de Lempicka was born on May 16, 1898**, into a life of comfort and privilege in Warsaw, Poland. Named Maria Górska at birth, she was enveloped from a young age in an aristocratic lifestyle that would later influence both her persona and her art. Her family was well-off; her father, Boris Gurwik-Górski, was a successful attorney, and her mother, **Malwina Decler, came from a wealthy Polish family. Growing up,**

**Tamara was surrounded** by the trappings of wealth – from the grand homes decorated with art and luxurious furnishings, to the elite social circles her family moved in. This early exposure to art and opulence undoubtedly played a role in shaping her artistic sensibilities and her love for the finer things in life. However, her early years were also marked by adversity.

**When Tamara was just 12**, her father tragically passed away, leading to a significant upheaval in her family life. To cope, Tamara was sent to live with her grandmother in St. Petersburg, where she attended a prestigious school. It was during this period that she began to show an interest in the arts, attending the theater, opera, and visiting various art galleries.

**Her time in St. Petersburg** was critical in exposing her to the broader cultural and artistic influences that would later permeate her work. An early escapade that would hint at the independent and willful woman Tamara was to become occurred at age 15 when she defied her family by heading to Italy to stay with wealthy relatives. She claimed she was going to improve her health but spent much of her time studying Renaissance art and the works of the Old Masters.

**This experience was pivotal**, instilling in her a lifelong passion for art and culture. Upon returning to Poland, Tamara's life continued to be filled with the luxuries of high society, but with the onset of World War I and the subsequent Russian Revolution, the Górska family's fortunes began to change.

**In 1916, Tamara married Tadeusz Lempicki**, a Polish lawyer from a similarly aristocratic background. The couple's marriage was marked by the turbulence of the times, and in 1918, the Russian Revolution forced them to flee to Paris, marking the end of Tamara's aristocratic beginnings and the start of her life as an artist in the City of Light.





**The transition to Paris** was both a challenge and an opportunity. Paris in the 1920s was a hub of artistic innovation and bohemian culture. Tamara quickly immersed herself in the vibrant art scene of Montparnasse, enrolling in the Académie Ranson and studying under Maurice Denis and André Lhote.

**Despite the financial difficulties** and the rude awakening from her previously sheltered life, Tamara's resilience and passion for art pushed her to transform her struggles into creative fuel. Her aristocratic upbringing had given her a certain confidence and style which she began to channel into her painting.

**She would soon cultivate her unique Art Deco style**, a glamorous and avant-garde aesthetic that would not only reflect her early experiences but also resonate with the zeitgeist of post-war Europe. Tamara's journey from aristocratic Poland to the bohemian quarters of Paris is a story of transformation.

**Her early life, filled with wealth and culture**, laid the groundwork for her later success. It provided her with the inspiration and determination to reinvent herself amidst changing times. The glamorous life of Tamara de Lempicka truly began with her illustrious and formative early years, setting the stage for the artistic icon she was to become.