

BACHELOR PROGRAM OF CONTEMPORARY VISUAL ART

COVA 2220: 16TH -19TH CENTURY VISUAL ARTS

WHAT IS IMPRESSIONISM

- A theory or practice in painting especially among French painters of about 1870 of depicting the natural appearances of objects by means of dabs or strokes of primary unmixed colors in order to simulate actual reflected light.
- The artworks produced between about 1867 and 1886
- Impressionists tried to get down on canvas an “impression” of how a landscape, thing, or person appeared to them at a certain moment in time.

WHAT IS IMPRESSIONISM

- The Impressionists also rejected official exhibitions and painting competitions set up by the French government, instead organizing their own group exhibitions,
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTOO-ukvs4g>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzjRJzhnn8k>

CHARACTERISTICS

- **Bold Brush Strokes:** thick short strokes of bright color.
- **No Use of Black**
- **No Mixing of Paint:** colors are applied side-by-side with as little mixing as possible.
- **Lighting:** several Impressionist painters devoted entire series of paintings to a single object observed during different times of the day.
- **Influence of Photography:** capturing a fleeting moment, a snapshot of time.
- **Painting Outdoors**
- **Japanese Print Influence:** asymmetrical composition and off-guard moments captured.
- **Everyday Paintings of Life**
- **Landscapes**
- **Small Paintings**

WHAT DID THEY PORTRAY?

- The Impressionists aimed to be painters of *the real*: they aimed to extend the possible subjects for paintings. Getting away from depictions of idealized forms and perfect symmetry, they concentrated on the world as they saw it, which was imperfect in a myriad of ways.
- The Impressionists sought to capture the optical effects of light, to convey the fleeting nature of the present moment, including ambient features such as changes in weather, on their canvases
- Impressionism records the effects of the massive mid-19th-century renovation of Paris, which included the city's newly constructed railway stations; wide, tree-lined boulevards; and large, deluxe apartment buildings.

BY WHAT IT WAS STIMULATED?

- **Government-sanctioned Exhibitions (salons) & Académie des Beaux-arts (1863)**
- **Scientific Thought at the Time** (what the eye perceived and what the brain understood were two different things. New research encouraged artists to experiment with complementary colors. Impressionism took path of depicting emotions and feeling by using scientific theory of light.)
- **War** (Franco-Prussian War 1870–71)
- **Invention of Photography** inspired Impressionists to represent momentary action not only in the fleeting lights of a landscape, but in the day-to-day lives of people.
- **Renovation of Paris/Industrialization**

BY WHAT IT WAS STIMULATED?

- **Japonism:** the Impressionist were in astonishment as they admired the simplicity, asymmetrical, composition, and pure, bright colors found in Japanese prints. Many Japanese techniques began to enter the works of other impressionism painting.
- **Introduction of Paints in Tubes:** The Impressionists were the artists to embrace painting 'en plein air' (painting outside). Essentially this was due to the introduction of paint in tubes which for the first time enabled artists to carry all their studio equipment around in a case.
- **Invention of Box/Field Easel**

ARTIST: CLAUDE MONET (FRENCH)

Monet was a leader of the movement

He was particularly interested in the passage of time in his portrayal of light.

The emphasis in his pictures shifted from representing figures to depicting different qualities of light and atmosphere in each scene.

"IMPRESSION, SUNRISE," 1872



ARTIST: CLAUDE MONET (FRENCH)

He creates a contrast of light and shadows on the figure's face and clothing, indicating which direction the actual light is coming from

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pP1uXYT8n_M

LADY WITH A PARASOL , 1875



ARTIST: PIERRE AUGUSTE RENOIR (FRENCH)

- Was considered the other leader of the Impressionist movement.
- He shared Monet's interests but often preferred to capture artificial light in places like dance halls and directed his studies of the effects of light on figures, particularly the female form, rather than scenery, and he frequently focused on portraiture.
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hF_nArPfEgs

ARTIST: PIERRE AUGUSTE RENOIR (FRENCH)

Renoir gave a weight to the human subject perhaps unmatched by his fellow Impressionists.



LA GRENOUILLÈRE, 1869

ARTIST: PIERRE AUGUSTE RENOIR (FRENCH)

he painting combines all of the subjects that Renoir most loved to paint—still lifes, portraits, and outdoor scenes.



LUNCHEON OF THE BOATING PARTY, 1880–1

ARTIST: CAMILLE PISSARRO (DANISH – FRENCH)

Pissarro covered his canvases with images of the day-to-day life of French peasants. Pissarro's paintings dignify the labor of peasants in communal villages.



PONT BOIELDIEU IN ROUEN, RAINY WEATHER, 1896

ARTIST: CAMILLE PISSARRO (DANISH – FRENCH)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ES5_kkOxKvM



HAYSTACKS, MORNING, ÉRAGNY, 1899

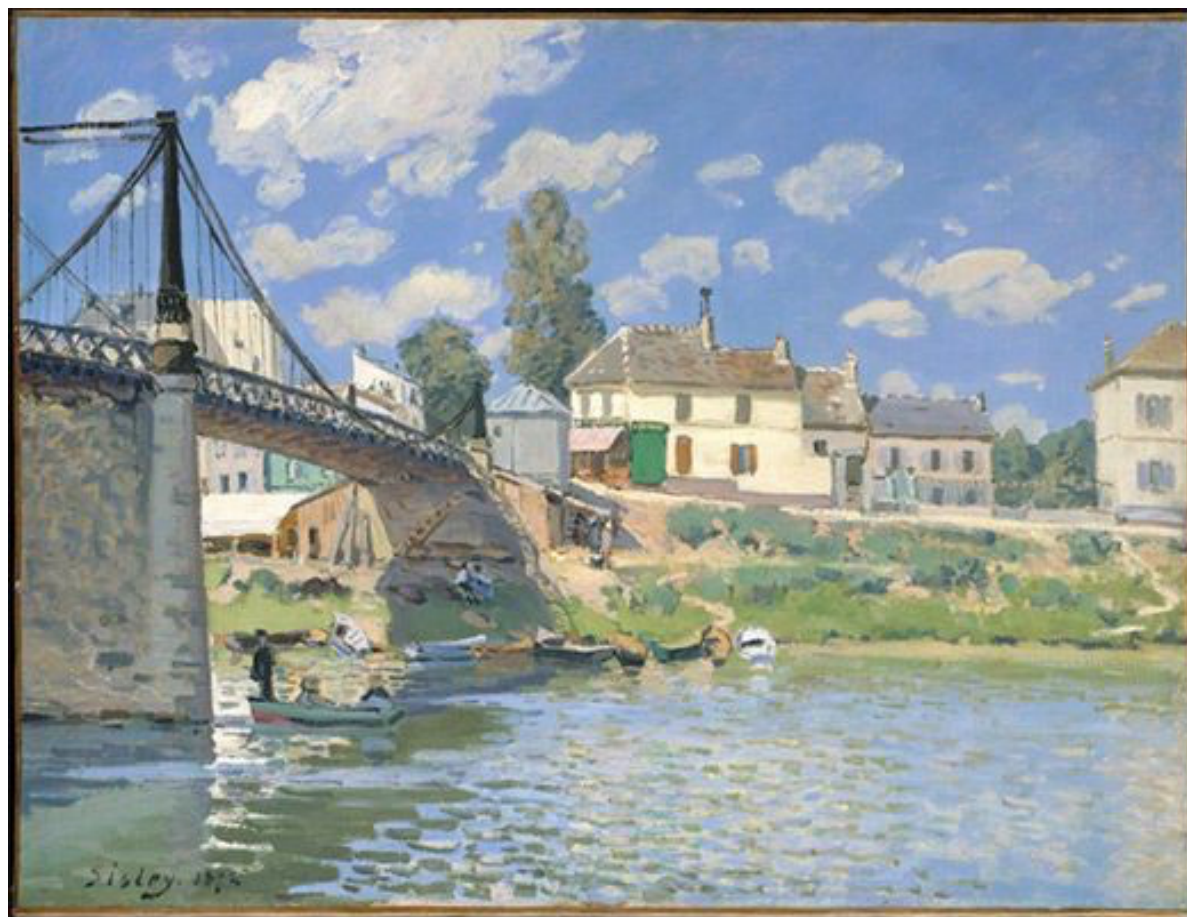
ARTIST: ALFRED SISLEY (BRITISH)

Sisley was almost exclusively a painter of landscapes.

Sisley's landscapes are known for their uncanny ability to capture a sense of atmosphere and light. This effect is compounded by his big, expressive skies, which are almost always a central feature of his paintings.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRc2eRWanNs>

ARTIST: ALFRED SISLEY (BRITISH)



THE BRIDGE AT VILLENEUVE-LA-GARENNE, 1872

ARTIST: BERTHE MORISOT (FRENCH)

Her paintings reveal her access to virtually all aspects of feminine life in the late-19th century, even private, intimate ones.

The Cradle is arguably Berthe Morisot's most famous painting.



THE CRADLE, 1872

ARTIST: BERTHE MORISOT (FRENCH)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mupxAAjAiWM>

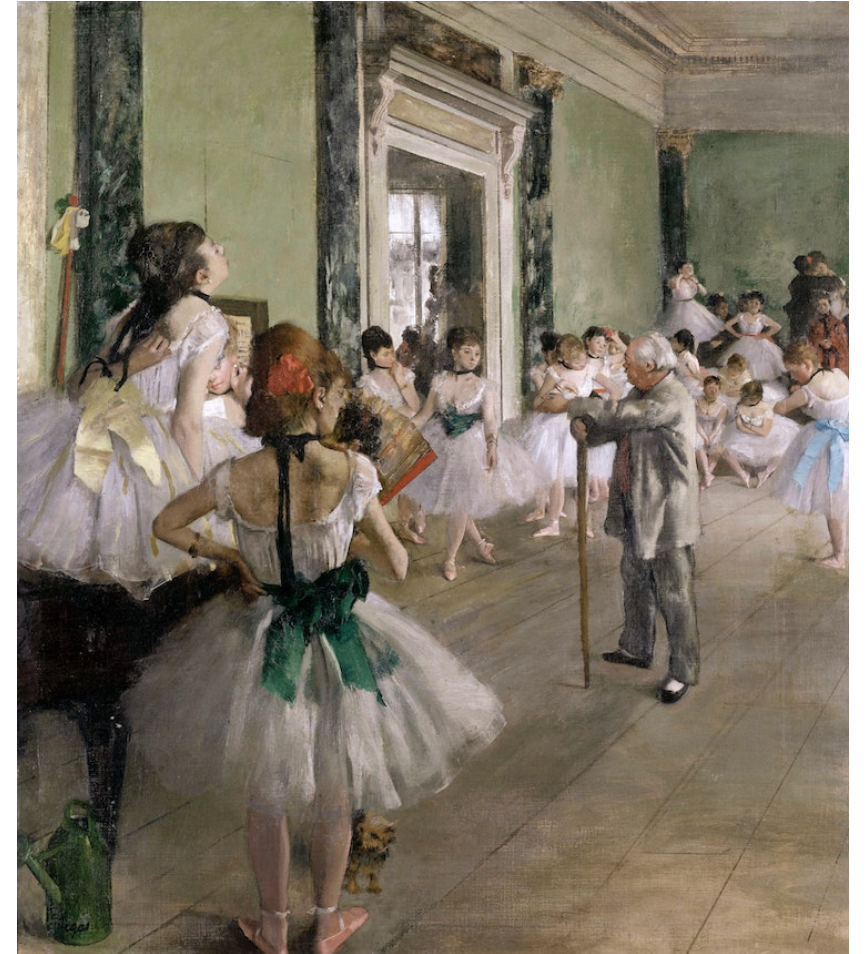


RECLINING NUDE SHEPHERDESS, 1891

ARTIST: EDGAR DEGAS (FRENCH)

He depicted human subjects and interior spaces. (performers at work ballerinas)

THE DANCE CLASS, 1875



ARTIST: EDGAR DEGAS (FRENCH)

Place de la Concorde depicts artist and patron Ludovic-Napoléon Lepic with his daughters and dog at a public square in Paris.

PLACE DE LA CONCORD, 1875



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXB187Gpz6I>

ARTIST: MARY CASSATT (AMERICAN)



LITTLE GIRL IN A BLUE ARMCHAIR, 1878

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPIJ9CJPwpc>