

Key Learning

- The impressionism movement began in France in about 1860.
- Famous artists from this era are Pissaro, Renoir, Degas and Monet.
- These artists were all, at different times, rejected from the annual art exhibition at the Salon (the only place where art work could be exhibited and become noticed.)
- This group of artists created their own exhibitions and called themselves The Anonymous Society of Painters, Sculptors and Printmakers. The first exhibition was held in 1874.
- These artists revolutionised painting. They painted pictures of ordinary things, rather than grand staged portraits and this was deemed inappropriate at that time.
- The impressionists tried to capture fleeting moments in time by recording subtle things, like changes to the light or movement. They did this by using short, loose, fast brushstrokes.
- Their artwork was accused of looking unfinished because the paint brush marks were often left deliberately visible. And the paint was often left in layers, rather than blended together.
- They were the first artists to paint outdoors (**en plein air**) as they

Year 4/5 Impressionism: Painting en plein air



Morda CE Primary School

Impressionism facts

Impressionists revolutionised painting with the style we now know as Impressionism.

They were rejected by the Salon.

They organised their own exhibition.

The Impressionists painted **en plein air** and used tubed paints and a box easel.

They tried to capture changes in light by using fast, loose brush strokes.

The Impressionists left brush marks on the canvas, with shades and tints visible and not blended,

The Impressionists got their name when a critic insulted Monet's work, saying it looked like an impression.

Key Vocabulary

Box easel	A freestanding easel that includes a compartment to store paints and brushes etc. Some also have a handle or straps to make them easy to carry.
Brush stroke	The mark made by a paintbrush.
En plein air	French for "In open air".
Exhibition	A public display of artwork.
Impression	An idea, feeling or opinion about something or someone, often formed on first contact.
Impressionism	A style of painting developed in the last third of the 19 th century.
Revolutionised	To change something radically.
Salon	In 19 th century France, the Salon was the official art exhibition in France. It was where all the esteemed artists would exhibit their work and where important

realised that tubes of paint and an easel in a box could be portable. They didn't have to stay in their studios to paint.

- Being outdoors meant they could paint and capture changes as they occurred, like changes to the atmosphere, water surfaces and facial expressions.
- The 1874 exhibition was where Monet first showed his work called "Impression, Sunrise" and this gave way to their name – the Impressionists.
- A famous art critic called Louis Leroy said that Monet's painting looked like an unfinished sketch or an "impression". He meant this as an insult.
- These artists often made several paintings of the same place at different times of the day and from different angles.

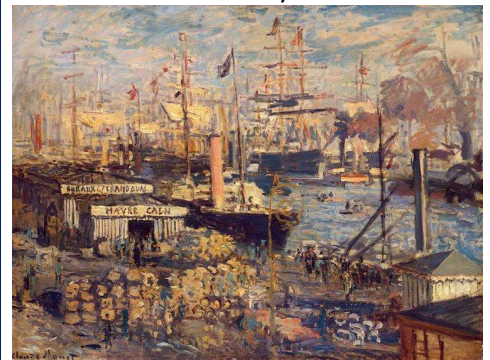
Famous work



Sunrise by Claude Monet



The Port of Le Havre by Claude Monet



The Grand Dock at Le Havre by Claude Monet

Shade

figures in French society would gather to discuss art.

A darker version of an original colour made by adding black.

Tint

A lighter version of an original colour made by adding white.