

# Claude Monet (1840-1926)



Claude Monet was a French painter whose work was deemed “impression” due to his concentration with form and light comparatively to realism.<sup>1</sup>

## Early life and beginning stages as a painter

- Born in Paris yet grew up on the Normandy coast in Le Havre
- Mother passed away in 1857
- Father was a wholesale grocer in the maritime industry
- Did not support his decision to be an artist
- Completing his paintings fully outside.
- Struggled in his early years as an artist
- Emphasized painting outdoors and capturing the qualities of light

<sup>2</sup>

## Critical Reception

- Louis Leroy originally dismissed Monet’s Impression, *Sunrise* (1873; Paris, Mus. Marmottan) as “less finished than half-manufactured wallpaper.”
- Roger Marx, a critic, states that Monet broke away from the teachings of Western traditions
- Marx states that it is nature that is fixed. The vagueness of abstraction is from the pureness of nature.



“The richness I achieve comes from nature, the source of my inspiration [...] I aspire to no other destiny than to work and live in harmony with her laws.”

- Claude Monet

<sup>1</sup> Monet, Claude, 1840-1926. 1886. Self-Portrait.

<sup>2</sup> Claude Monet. 1872. Impression, Sunrise. Place: MusØe Marmottan, Paris.

[https://library-artstor-org.ezproxy.lib.davidson.edu/asset/LESSING\\_ART\\_1039490324](https://library-artstor-org.ezproxy.lib.davidson.edu/asset/LESSING_ART_1039490324).

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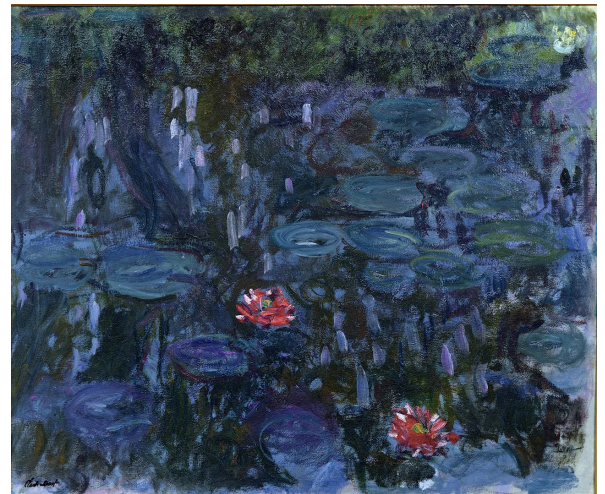
## Waterlilies

- After Monet's friend's death, Georges Clemenceau encouraged him to push past the pains of his lost loved ones to renew his paintings that were devoted to water gardens.
- He decided to construct a studio in which he would have the ability to paint and a very grand scale. He was still persisting towards his project even with his cataracts.



## What makes them "Abstract"

- They demonstrated the gap between personal chronology of an individual artist and that of a history of art movements.
- Similar in subject yet varied in size
- Similar subject but different moods
- Variety of alteration of lilies, reducing and increasing the amount of reflected material, and also having a diverse perspective on lighting
- Does this by stacking the paint layers to express reflections and changing of hues to show depth



## Scholarly Sources

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<sup>3</sup> Claude Monet. 1899. Water Lilies and Japanese Bridge. Paintings. Place: Princeton University Art Museum, <http://artmuseum.princeton.edu/>.