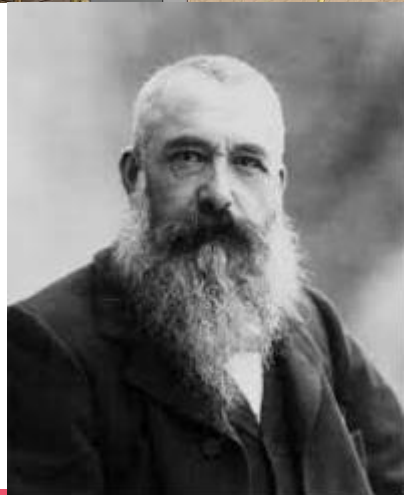




Monet was born in Paris in 1840 and as a child he showed great talent as an artist. In 1872 he painted a picture of a harbour using very loose brushstrokes. He called the picture Impression, Sunrise and exhibited it along with paintings by his friends who also painted 'en plein air'. The artists became known as the impressionists after the title of Monet's painting.

As well as painting landscapes, impressionists painted everyday scenes. Painting an everyday scene was considered radical at the time because most artists took inspiration from battle scenes, Bible passages or Greek myths.



Claude Monet

1840 - 1926



The Water Lily Pond



Sunrise

What Does 'Impressionism' Mean?

When someone does an impression of someone, they are trying to copy the way that the person speaks and moves. The word 'impression' can also refer to an idea that a person has about someone, e.g. 'I got the impression that he was a bit annoyed.'

Impressionism got its name because the artists weren't aiming to create a photograph-like painting of what was actually there; instead, they were aiming to give their impression (idea or version) of it. Two impressionist artists might paint exactly the same scene yet produce two very different pieces of art.



Monet's painting, 'Impression, Sunrise', was made fun of in several newspaper articles.

Despite the initial reaction to the movement, impressionism soon became popular. Impressionism was also explored by artists from different parts of the world.

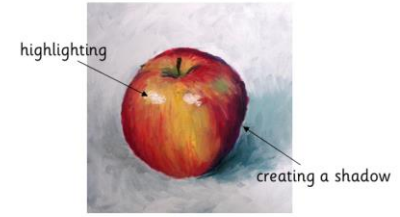


Painting aids children acquire hand-eye coordination, an important skill in their age.

Painting tips

Adding highlights and shadows to an object helps to make it look more realistic. Decide which direction the light is shining from – this needs to be the same on every object within your painting.

Highlights can be added to the side that the light is shining, and shadows created on the opposite.



Painting tips

The more pressure you apply, the more paint you put onto the surface and the less important the shape of the brush because force will change the shape of the softest part of the brush.



Woman seated on a bench



Weeping Willow (1918-19)

During the First World War, Monet painted a series of weeping willow trees to represent fallen French soldiers.

Later in life, Monet began to suffer from poor eyesight, caused by cataracts. As a result, he added reddish tones to his work. He also repainted some of his works of art, adding blue tones.

Monet developed lung cancer at the age of 86, and he died on 5th December 1926. He was buried in Giverny cemetery. He was one of the most significant painters in the history of art, and he created many of the world's most iconic oil paintings.