

IX. CLAUDE MONET (1840-1926)

Biographical and background information

1. Born in Paris; worked there and in Argenteuil, Vetheuil, and after 1883 in Giverny; traveled to London and Venice; exhibited with the Impressionists 1874-82.
2. Paris in the 19th century: exploration of bourgeois life, the “modern” city.
3. The roles of the *salon*, art critic and art dealer.

Selected works

4. *Plein air* painting and Impressionism
 - a. *Women in the Garden*, 1867 (oil on canvas, 8.4' x 6.7', Musée d'Orsay, Paris)
 - b. *Terrace at Sainte-Adresse*, 1867 (oil on canvas, 3'2" x 4'2", MMA)
 - c. *The River*, 1868 (oil on canvas, 2'7 7/8" x 3'3 3/8", Art Institute of Chicago)
 - d. *La Grenouillère*, 1869 (oil on canvas, 2'5" x 3'2", MMA)
 - i. Comparison: Auguste Renoir, *La Grenouillère*, 1869 (oil on canvas, 2.2' x 2.6', National Museum, Stockholm)
 - e. *Impression, Sunrise*, 1872 (oil on canvas, 1'8" x 2'2", Musée Marmottan, Paris)
 - f. *Bridge at Argenteuil*, 1874 (oil on canvas, 2' x 2'8", Musée d'Orsay, Paris)
 - g. *Vetheuil in Summer*, 1880 (oil on canvas, 2'2" x 3'4", MMA)
5. Paris and the modern city:
 - a. *Boulevard des Capucines*, 1873 (oil on canvas, 2'8" x 2', Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City)
 - b. Paintings of the Gare-Saint-Lazare, 1876-77 (oil on canvas)
6. Series paintings:
 - a. Étretat, 1883-5 (oil on canvas, one at MMA)
 - b. Haystacks, 1889-93 (oil on canvas, one at MMA)
 - c. Poplars, 1890-91 (oil on canvas, one at MMA)
 - d. Rouen Cathedral, 1892-94 (oil on canvas, one at MMA)
 - e. Houses of Parliament, London, 1903-4 (oil on canvas, one at MMA)
7. Late works:
 - a. *Water Lilies*, c. 1920 (three canvases, each 6'6" x 14', MoMA)
 - b. *Japanese Footbridge*, 1920-22 (oil on canvas, 2'11" x 3'10", MoMA)
8. Comparisons:
 - a. Edouard Manet, *Claude Monet in His Boat*, 1874 (oil on canvas, 2'8 1/2" x 3'5", Neue Pinakothek, Munich)
 - b. Auguste Renoir
 - i. *Monet Painting in His Garden at Argenteuil*, 1873 (oil on canvas, 1'6" x 2', Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford)

- ii. *Bathers*, 1884-87 (oil on canvas, 3'10" x 5'7", Philadelphia Museum of Art)

Readings and web resources

Primary Source Reader

Edmond Duranty, from *The New Painting*

Théodore Duret, from *The Impressionist Painters*

Louis Leroy, "Exhibition of the Impressionists"

Jules LaForgue, "Impressionism"

Diego Martelli, "The Impressionists"

Pierre-Auguste Renoir, "The Society of Irregularists"

Charles Baudelaire, "Crowds"

Roger Marx, "On Monet's Waterlilies"

Readings on Butler Reserve

William C. Seitz, *Claude Monet: Seasons and Moments* (New York, 1960)

John House, *Monet, Nature into Art* (New Haven, 1986)

John Rewald and Frances Weitzenhoffer, eds., *Aspects of Monet* (New York, 1984)

Other readings

John House, "Time's Cycles." *Art in America* 80.10 (October 1992): 126-35 and 161 (available as .pdf)

Paul Smith, "Monet and the Moment of Art," in *Impressionism: beneath the surface*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1995: 83-110 (available as .pdf)

Web resources

Website on Monet's Rouen Cathedral series at

<http://www.learn.columbia.edu/monet/swf>