

Homework 3

Claude Monet

Claude Monet was the founder of the Impressionist movement. He was focused on capturing movement and changing **light and colour** in his paintings, and was less concerned with realism. He wanted to paint how humans look upon a scene, rather than what is actually there. Common themes in his work were bridges, cathedrals, hay stacks, and gardens.

He liked to paint outside looking at the real scene rather than back in his studio, this is known as “**en plein air.**”

Most of Monet’s subjects were from nature. Like other Impressionists, he was fascinated by the way light and shadows change during the day. He often painted the same scene again and again to show all the variations of light and **shadow.**

In order to continue his experiments with light, Monet began to paint series of the same scenes. He would paint them at different times of the day and in different types of weather. He painted a series on haystacks, the Rouen Cathedral, and the London Parliament.

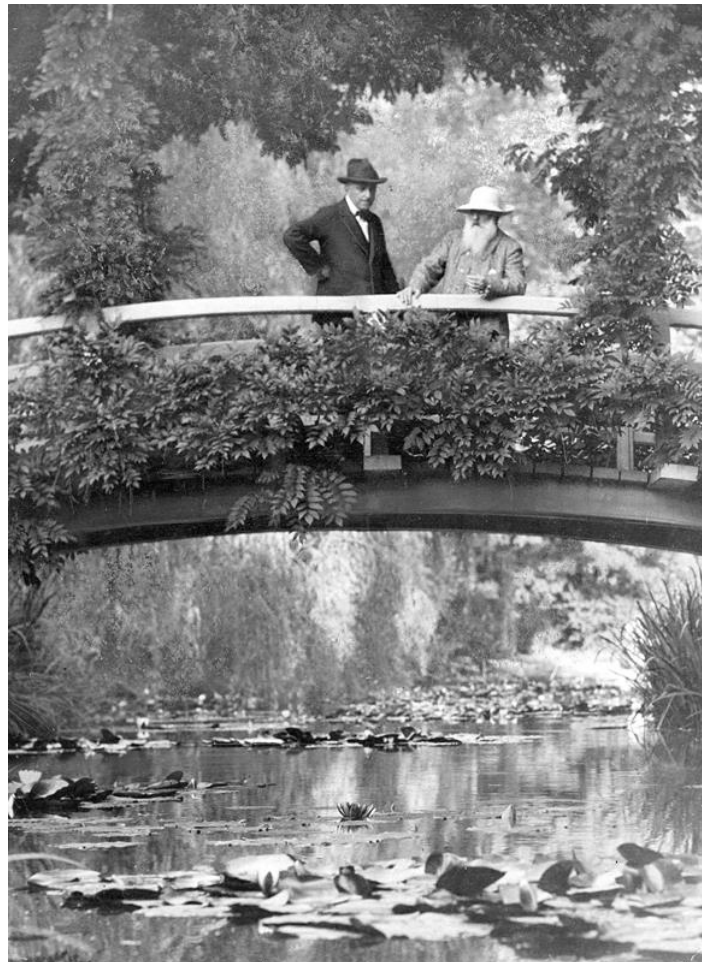
Monet used broad brush strokes to build up his pictures, and painted quite quickly to try and get the idea of the light he could see into his paintings. If you go very close to one of his pictures it is hard to see what it shows, but if you stand back everything becomes clear.

In the 1880s Monet settled in Giverny, outside of Paris. Monet decided to create his ideal world in his magnificent garden, including a beautiful pond and a **Japanese bridge.** Monet found that his garden inspired him to paint pictures of it, particularly the water lilies. There he painted his most famous series of paintings, called **Water Lilies.**

Monet suffered from cataracts in his later life, cataracts are caused by the build-up of proteins on the lenses, making your vision cloudy or **blurry.** Before the

cataracts removal many of his works had a reddish hue that is said to be indicative of people suffering from the condition.

Near the end of his life, Monet embarked on his largest project. It was a series on the pond at his home in Giverny. It involved a number of huge paintings of the pond in different lighting and conditions such as morning, sunset, and clouds. He called it the Grandes Decorations. When finished, all the panels together were over 6 feet tall and nearly 300 feet long. During much of the project the aging Monet was suffering from bad eyesight and lung cancer. He spent the last ten years of his life on the project and donated it to France in honour of the end of World War I. Monet died on December 5, 1926, in Giverny.



At the prime of his career, Monet was considered the best artist in France. He is still considered one of the greatest French artists of all time. He founded the Impressionist movement, one of the major movements in art history and had a major influence on future artists.