

Impressionism

The history of the movement and its artists.

The aim of this exhibit is to tell the story of the impressionist movement from its beginnings at the famous 1863 'Salon of the refused' until the last exhibition of the group in 1886. It will also briefly explore the lives of the artists involved.

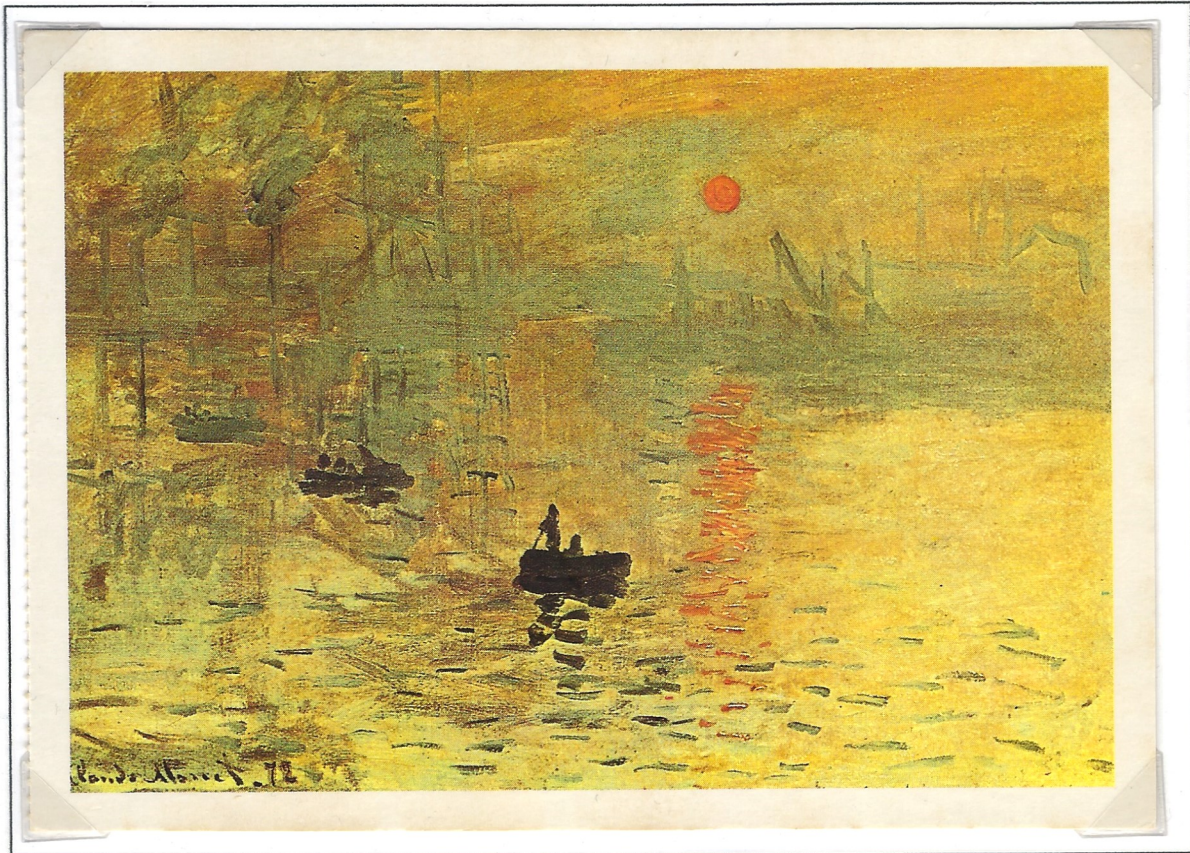
Introduction

After being refused entry into the official Salon of the Academy, the group under the leadership of Edouard Manet became revolutionaries of the Academy and held a total of 8 independent exhibitions from 1863 to 1886. His death in 1893, precipitated the breakup of the group. The group scattered for a short time in 1870 with the outbreak of the Franco-German war, with several members joining the army. They used their palettes with colours beside each other and not mixed as in the past and their world was seen as a sequence of impressions that continually changed with the effects of light and other natural conditions. They also mostly painted outdoors. In 1874 Claude Monet painted his 'Impression, Sunrise' from which would come the term 'Impressionist'.

Index

P1	Introduction	P2	Camille Pissarro	P3	Edouard Manet
P4	Edgar Degas	P5	Paul Cezanne	P6	Alfred Sisely and Mary Cassatt
P7	Claude Monet	P8	Auguste Renoir		

References: 'Impressionism' by Eugen Schileru
'Masterpieces of Art' by Charles Wentinck



Postcard showing 'Impression, Sunrise' by Claude Monet, 1874

Camille Pissarro

1830 - 1903

Camille Pissarro's father sent him to learn a trade but he preferred drawing and so was eventually allowed to become a painter.

He became a pupil of Jean Baptiste Camille Corot (1796 – 1875) and first showed his work in the 'Salon des Refuses' in 1863. He was particularly influenced by Claude Manet and Georges Seurat and was famous for his town views.

During the 1870 war his studio in Louveciennes was plundered and all but 40 of the 1500 paintings stored there were destroyed. This left him poor for the next 20 years.

He was the only painter to exhibit in all 8 independent exhibitions. In the 1880's and 90's he started painting in the pointillist style (painting with dots of colour) pioneered by Seurat.



'Barges at Pontoise'



'Jeane' in pointillist style.



"Landscape with Bridge"



'Orchard in Blossom'

Edouard Manet

1832 - 1883

Edouard Manet is considered the father of Impressionism and was the leader of the group.

He was born in Paris to a wealthy family so was not reliant on selling his works to make a living, which was fortunate, as his works were not appreciated until late in his life.

People who viewed his 'dejeuner sur l'herbe' on show at the official Salon were shocked and outraged, so with others who defied the traditional way of painting, he organised the 1863 'Salon of the Refused'.

His unconventional scenes from modern life and his bold brushwork brought new life to the French painting.



'Spanish Dancer'



'The Fifer. 1866'



'Madame Monet on a blue Sofa'



'On the Boat. 1874'

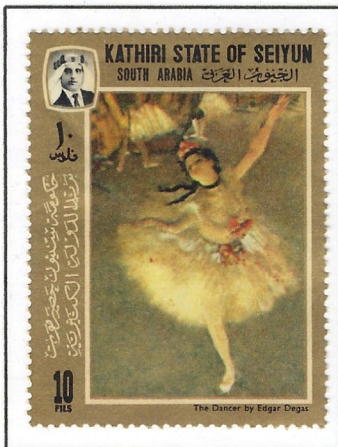
Edgar Degas

1834 - 1917

Edgar Degas was born in Paris. Aged 18, he gave up his law studies and took up a career as an artist.

He is best known for his paintings of dancers, mostly ballet painted at the Paris Opera. Later in life he devoted his studies to women at their bath or performing chores, such as washing clothes or ironing.

His eyesight deteriorated to the point where he could only do sculpture, usually with the sensitivity of his hands.



'The Dancer'



'The Millinery Shop'



'Ballerinas'



'Woman at her toilet'



'The Bellelli Family' 1858



'The Prima Ballerina'



'The Ironers'

Paul Cezanne

1839 - 1906

Paul Cezanne was born in the South of France. When his father died in 1866, he inherited a considerable fortune that enabled him to work as he wanted. He had previously met Manet in Paris in 1862 and adopted the ideas of the Impressionists to become the basis of his own art.

After 1886 he freed himself from the influence of Pissarro and from the Impressionist view in general and developed his own personal style.

Only his friends, especially Monet and Renoir, appreciated his art. However, painters of the coming generations were influenced by his art well into the 20th century.



'The Card Players'



'The Bathers'



'Still Life'



'L'Estaque'



'Shrove Tuesday'

Alfred Sisley

1839 - 1899

Alfred Sisley was exclusively a landscape painter and limited himself to the 'Ile de France'. Unlike his friends, he had no other means available than those of his art, so never had the chance to reap the fruits of his work. Poverty was a constant companion right up to his death. He was one of the truest followers of the Impressionist painting style.



'Loing Canal'



'Moret Church'

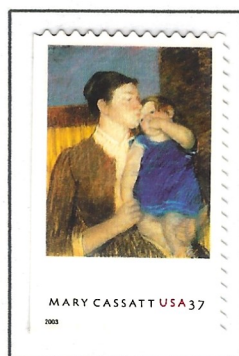
Mary Cassatt

1844 - 1926

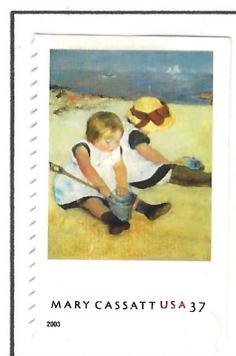
Mary Cassatt was a wealthy American who studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Arts before going to Paris in 1866 where she met Degas and Renoir. She is best known for her insightful portraits of women, often with their children.



'The Toilette'



'Young Mother'



'Children playing on Beach'



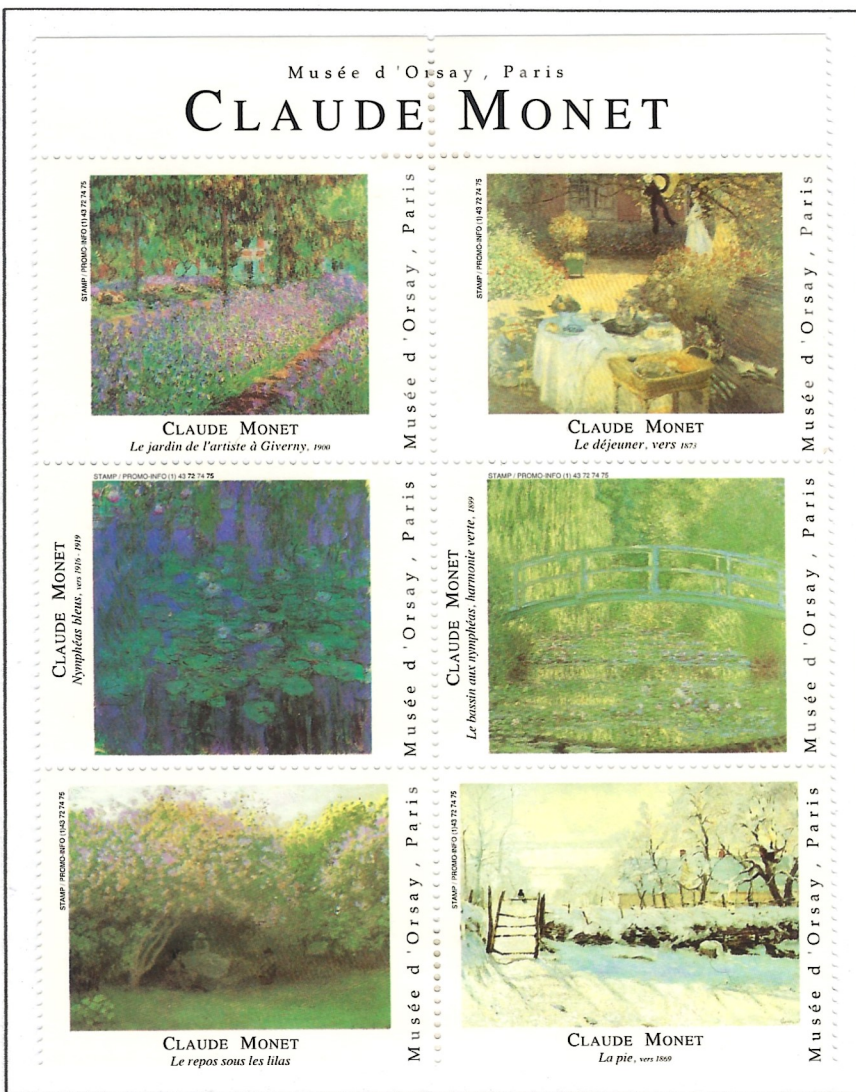
'The Boating Party'

Claude Monet

1840 - 1926

Claude Monet was estranged from his wealthy family and endured hardship until his paintings started to sell well when he was in his 40's. However, he died a wealthy man. He always painted outdoors and is considered the most typical artist of the Impressionist movement.

In 1892 he was able to buy a house in Giverny where he installed a pond full of water-lilies in the garden. This was the starting point for his famous 'Nymphaeum' series.



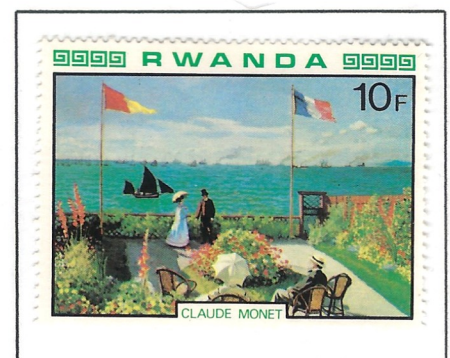
Series of paintings



'Water-lilies, Effect of Evening'



'Regatta at Arenteuil'



'Seaside Garden'

Auguste Renoir

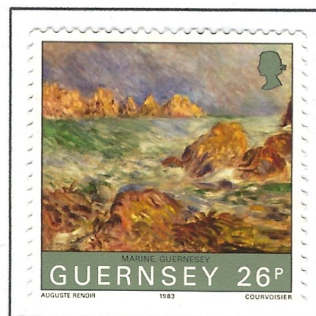
1841 - 1919

Auguste Renoir was born at Limoges in central France and initially trained as a porcelain painter. He did this for 5 years until stamping by machine made hand painting obsolete

He went to art school where he met Monet, Sisley and others. He always had a preference for women as a pictorial theme and he was very occupied with colour.



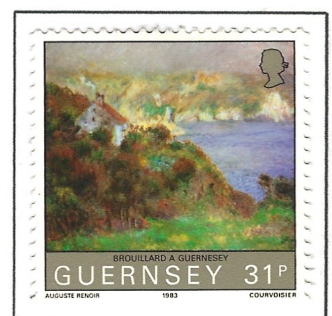
'View at Guernsey'



'Marine Guernsey'



'La Bale du Moulin Huet a travers les Arbress'



'Brouillard a Guernsey'



'Girl with Watering Can'



'Nude in a Landscape'



'The Swing'

Today the works of the Impressionists are some of the most recognisable of the different art periods and their works command huge prices at auction, usually many millions of dollars.