

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

The Movement

The ideas of Impressionism can be traced to the 1860s when Claude Monet, Alfred Sisley, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and others pursued “en plein air” (painting in open air) together. John Rand’s radical invention of paint tubes allowed such a move. New bright, synthetic colors opened a new world for the painters.

In 1874, an expanded group of these painters took the art world by storm. Ignoring the *Académie des Beaux-Arts’ Salon de Paris*, (the official exhibition and influencer of the art world), this ragtag bunch pooled their money and their works, rented a studio, and set a date. Calling themselves the Anonymous Society of Painters, Sculptors, and Printmakers, they opened against the annual *Salon* in May 1874.

The art world, and our world, was forever changed.

Originally a pejorative term, *Impressionism* shook the art world to its roots. Critics said the works seemed unfinished and were just “impressions.” What they did not understand was that cameras could now capture realism and the artist was freed to show us their own piercing perceptions. Impressionism is considered the first modern movement in painting.

Over time, this style became widely accepted—even by the Salon—as *the* way to present modern life. Loose brushwork of unblended primary colors, short brushstrokes that often only outline that which they represent, and always, the impact of the light. Never simply black and white, shadows are rendered in highlights of color.

Impressionists strove to depict a specific moment in time by capturing atmospheric conditions—

moving clouds, a ray of sun, a sudden fall of rain. And always the light—the light, illuminating, fading, flickering; their goal to make you see what they saw.

Lasting Impressions takes viewers *into* the works of some of the most famous names in art: Gauguin, Monet, Degas, Caillebotte, Cézanne, Renoir, Sisley, Seurat, Pissarro, Van Gogh. These masterpieces are seen in an entirely original perspective.

Impressionism was spurred by technology: New, vibrant synthetic colors, paint in a tube and the advent of the camera spurred and allowed artists to paint in a different way. *Lasting Impressions* capitalizes on technology as well to spur and allow audiences to see these works as never before.

The Artists

Lasting Impressions presents the works of fifteen of the world's most famous artists.

Gustave Caillebotte (1848 – 1894)

Caillebotte is unusual in the pantheon of impressionist artists. Independently wealthy, he did not need to sell his paintings which had the ironic effect of cementing his obscurity. Still, he was a master painter obsessed with the City of Paris, often capturing the goings-on in the modern metropolis known as the geographic center of Impressionism. He is the only impressionist to serve as artist, curator, financier, organizer, and patron of the movement.

Paul Cézanne (1839 – 1906)

Cézanne is considered “The Father of Modern Art” not only because he painted in the Impressionist, Post-impressionist, Cubist and Modern styles, but also because his vivid colors, analytical brush strokes and innovative approach to perspective led Picasso to call Cézanne “the father of us all.” While working closely and being exhibited with the impressionists, he developed a unique and recognizable style. His unique brushstrokes and

colorful palette are on full display in *Lasting Impressions*.

Edgar Degas (1834 – 1917)

In much the same way Cézanne captured the landscape, Degas captured the ballet. “People call me the painter of dancing girls,” he once said. “It has never occurred to them that my chief interest in dancers lies in rendering movement and painting pretty clothes.” Yet Degas focused not on the glory of performance instead opting to reveal the simple moments and hard work of art. Much like a photographer (which he also became), he framed odd angles and unique perspectives to capture striking moments.

Henri Fantin-Latour (1836–1904)

Despite his association with the impressionists, Fantin-Latour was a traditional painter throughout his career. It is his portrait of Edouard Manet that brings him to *Lasting Impressions*. He is best known for his still-life paintings, particularly his exquisite flowers.

Paul Gauguin (1848-1903)

Gauguin came to art late in life, a thirty-something successful stockbroker when he became a student of Pissarro who invited him to join the impressionists. It took a stock market crash to convince him to join the artists fulltime. He famously spent a summer *en plein air* with Vincent Van Gogh before turning his back on not only the current art world, but the modern world altogether. He became associated with *symbolism* and *primitivism* and is often used as an example of ultimate artistic freedom.

Edouard Manet (1832-1883)

Like many of the impressionists, Manet was born into an upper-class family and he had high aspirations for Manet as a lawyer or military leader. After failing entrance exams twice, he enrolled in art school. His “*alla prima technique*” – successive layers of paint on a light ground – created energetic canvases whose opaque flatness and sketch-like passages changed the acceptable norms of painting. Manet weathered severe reviews and never achieved financial or

critical success in his lifetime. He once wrote a friend, "They are raining insults on me. Someone must be wrong." Could he have imagined his paintings now fetching upwards of twenty-six million dollars?

Claude Monet (1840-1926)

Known as the "father of Impressionism" it was his *Impression: Sunrise* that gave the movement its name. Obsessed with the light, Monet learned to paint outdoors and quickly to capture its impact. Most people think of "waterlilies" as a painting but in fact, he created over 250 "waterlilies" to capture the effect of the light at different times of day. He not only painted them, but he also grew them(!), and the subject of these paintings were found in his gardens at Giverny. When asked, he surprisingly said, "My finest masterpiece is my garden."

Camille Pissarro (1830-1903)

Pissarro differed from his fellow impressionists in at least two ways: he preferred to live in the countryside away from Paris and he is the only

painter to have exhibited in all eight impressionist exhibitions. He also chose to often focus on rural peasants and strove to show the dignity in their labor and lives. He continually sought out younger painters to work with (including Seurat) and his color theory had a “lasting impression” on them and the larger art world.

Jean Francois Raffaelli (1850-1924)

Raffaelli had aspirations as an opera singer and actor before moving to painting in 1870. Degas introduced Raffaelli to impressionism and impressionists despite the reservations of others in the group and he exhibited with them only twice, in 1880 and 1881. He moved on to realism and created a specific style of it (caractérisme) striving to depict more than a simple moment in time so to understand the characters more fully.

Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841-1919)

Renoir once trained as an opera singer, eventually taking a job in a porcelain factory.

Fortune found his father's home next to the Louvre and when the porcelain factory closed, he turned to visual art. He became one of the most famous painters of all time, known for broken brushstrokes of complimentary colors that exquisitely capture the light. Renoir's subjects always seem to be enjoying themselves and he clearly enjoyed painting them. (Look carefully for his wife in the *Luncheon of the Boating Party*. She is in the left foreground with the dog.) Stricken with severe arthritis in his later years he painted through the pain. "The pain passes," he said, "the beauty remains."

Henri Rousseau (1844-1910)

Rousseau was a post-impressionist known for his naïve or primitive style. He took an early retirement from the Army so that he could pursue his painting hobby full time and shortly after his death, was one of the most respected artists of the day. Often ridiculed by critics, he was admired and feted by some of the world's greatest artists including Picasso, Matisse, Van Gogh and Dali.

Georges Seurat (1859-1891)

Like several of the impressionists, Seurat was born into wealth. He is most famous for the technique of *pointillism* and for *Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* which made the technique famous. Pointillism uses dots of unblended primary colors side-by-side so that the eye does the mixing. The 10-foot-tall painting took two years to complete and now hangs in the Art Institute of Chicago. It also inspired the musical, *Sunday in the Park with George* by Stephen Sondheim. In it, George's girlfriend, (played in the original by Bernadette Peters) is aptly named "Dot."

Alfred Sisley (1839-1899)

Sisley was likely the most dedicated to impressionism, rarely painting in doors or anything other than landscapes. Most artists moved on from impressionism after a time but Sisley remained an impressionist throughout his life and career. Consequently, his skills as an impressionist continually grew and he became

known for his intense colors and the power of his expression. Like many artists, he struggled financially and his works became monetarily valuable only after his death. Several of his works were stolen by Nazis and have never been found.

Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890)

Van Gogh is likely the most famous impressionist and masses have learned of him through Don McLean's *Starry, Starry Night*, or from one of the many screen versions of his life in which he is portrayed by Kirk Douglas, Willem Dafoe, Benedict Cumberbatch and others (even Scorsese himself had a go of the role). He worked closely with Gauguin and it was after an argument with him that Van Gogh cut off his own ear. Van Gogh struggled with mental illness throughout his short life (today he would likely be diagnosed as bipolar) and died by suicide at the age of 37.

The Art

Lasting Impressions presents over 100 masterworks of Impressionist art. We share a few of the most famous ones here. A full listing of every work follows.

Gustave Caillebotte

Paris Street, Rainy Day

Portrait of a Man

Paul Cezanne

Madame Cezanne

Portrait of Anthony Valabregue

Young Italian Women at a Table

Edgar Degas

Ballet at the Paris Opera

Before the Ballet

Cafe Singer

Dancers at the old Opera House

Dancers Practicing at the Barre

Four Dancers

The Dance Class

The Dance Lesson

The Dance Lesson
The Dancing Class
The Rehearsal Onstage
The Star

Henri Fantin-Latour

Edouard Manet Portrait

Paul Gauguin

Breton Girls Dancing, Pont-Aven

Edouard Manet

A Bar at the Folies-Bergere

Fishing

George Moore in the Artist's Garden

Musica en las Tullerias

Claude Monet

Argenteuil

Arrival of the Normandy Train, Gare Saint-Lazare

Boulevard Heloise, Argenteuil

Cabin of the Customs Watch

Camille Monet on a Garden Bench

Etretat: The Beach and the Falaise d'Amont
Garden at Sainte-Adresse
Houses on the Achterzaan
ile aux Fleurs near Vetheuil
La Corniche near Monaco
La Grenouillere
Poplars (wind effect)
Regatta at Sainte-Adresse
Sunrise
The Green Wave
The Manneporte near Etretat
The Petite Creuse River
The Valley of the Nervia
View of Vetheuil
Water Lilies
Waterloo Bridge, Sunlight Effect
A Cowherd at Valhermeil, Auverssur-Oise

Camille Pissarro

Rue de l'Epicerie, Rouen (Effect of Sunlight)
The Boulevard Montmartre on a Winter Morning
The Garden of the Tuileries on a Winter
Afternoon
The Place du Havre, Paris

Jean Francois Raffaelli

Place de la Trinite, Paris

Pierre-Auguste Renoir

Acrobats at the Cirque Fernando

Alfred Sisley

Etude de brodeuse

Jean as a Huntsman

La Famille Henriot

La Promenade

La Sortie du conservatoire

Lunch at the Restaurant Fournaise

Luncheon of the Boating Party

Monsieur Charpentier

Pont Neuf, Paris, 1872

Portrait of Mademoiselle Marie Murer

Seascape

Two Sisters

Henri Rousseau

Le Canal

Sawmill, Outskirts of Paris

The Banks of the Bievre near Bicetre

Georges Seurat

Entrance of The Port of Honfleur

Horse and Boats

Two Sailboats at Grandcamp

Alfred Sisley

The Road from Versailles to Louveciennes

Vincent Van Gogh

Bouquet of Flowers in a Vase

Farmhouse in Provence

Fishing in Spring, the Pont de Clichy

Flower Beds in Holland

Girl in White

Green Wheat Fields, Auvers

House and Figure

Irises

Landscape

Le cafe de nuit

Olive Trees

Orchard Bordered by Cypresses

Portrait of Van Gogh

Road in Etten

Self Portrait
Self Portrait
Self-Portrait
Self-Portrait with Straw Hat
Square Saint-Pierre, Paris
Starry Night Over the Rhone
Sunflowers
The Bedroom
The Drinkers
The Large Plane Trees
The Poet's Garden
The Poplars at Saint-Remy
The Potato Eaters
The Starry Night
Wheat Field with Cypresses

The Music

Hear a work during the show you want to hear again? Subscribe to our spotify playlist at

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3YKsnfnq2sj3w1VwddfsvF?si=0bb52a44e0034f34&nd=1>.

Debussy: *Symphony in B Minor : II. Un poco lento, cantabile*

Jun Marki, Orchestra National De Lyon

Ravel: *Ma mere l'oye, M 62. Apotheose. Le jardin feerique*

Leonard Slatkin, Orchestre National De Lyon

Debussy: *Petite Suite, L:65 1. En bateau*

Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Paul Paray

Debussy: *Dances for Harp and Orchestra, L. 103: Danse profane*

Amsterdam Sinfonietta, Lavinia Meijer

Debussy: *La demoiselle elue, L. 62*

Claudio Abbado, London Symphony Orchestra

Debussy: *Deux Arabesques L. 66: No. 1 Andante*
con moto

Zoltan Kocsis

Vincent

Adam Fisher

To The Stars - From "Ad Astra" Soundtrack
Air Lyndhurst Orchestra, Ben Foster

Ce sera moi

Nana Mouskouri

Non, je ne regrette rien

Edith Piaf

Hier Encore

Charles Aznavour

Dappled Light

Jess Gillam Ensemble

Under Paris Skies

Emile Pandolfi

The Musicians

Charles Aznavour's career spanned 7 decades and 1200 songs in nine languages. One of the most popular singers in France, his distinctive tenor voice can be heard on nearly 200 million albums sold, making him one of the best-selling artists of all time. Though an Armenian, he was dubbed a "French pop deity" and called "The French Frank Sinatra."

Adam Fisher is one of the great rising tenors of his generation. At home in opera, Broadway, pop and rock, Adam is a versatile musical talent that performs to rave reviews. Reviewers called his tribute to Van Gogh, *Starry, Starry Night*, with the Utah Symphony "The most powerful moment of the night." He is also featured in the Princeton Entertainment Group's production, *America's Wonders*.

Nana Mouskouri is the most successful female artist in history, selling in excess of 350 million

recordings around the world. Called Europe's answer to Barbara Streisand, has recorded over 200 albums in 12 languages. Her fluency in multiple languages allowed her to create hits all over the world. In 2015, she was awarded the *echo Music Prize* for outstanding achievements. Her tours are greeted by sold out audiences from Seoul, Korea to Santiago, Chile. Nana was appointed a UNICEF ambassador after the untimely death of Audrey Hepburn and served as a member of the European Parliament representing her home country of Greece.

Edith Piaf is likely France's most famous international star. Despite desperate circumstances throughout her life including a youth of poverty, a four-year blindness, the deaths of many dear to her including a husband and a child, and, a life of alcohol abuse, Piaf rose to international stardom. Numerous books and films have been written about her life and music and she is considered "France's National Chanteuse."