



Claude Monet was a French painter and one of the **leading** artists of the impressionist period. His paintings became famous around the world.

Monet was born in 1840 in Paris. His father had a **shipping** company while his mother **cared for** the family. At the age of five Monet and his family moved to Le Havre, where he went to school.

His talent for drawing came at an early age because the boy always liked to be outdoors.

In 1859 Monet went back to Paris to study art. There he met other artists of the time, including Renoir and Sisley. Together with them he started experimenting with painting in nature.

By the middle of the 1860s Monet was famous **throughout** the European art world. However, his life started to change. He spent too much money and sank deeper into **debt**. In 1870 Claude Monet married his long-time **mistress** Camille, with whom he had a son, Jean. His wife died after becoming **seriously** ill in 1879.

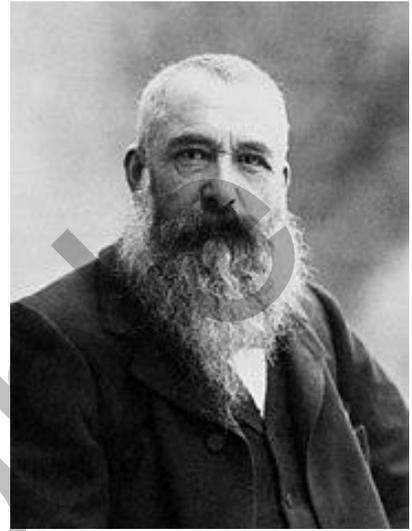
In 1874 Monet and some of his **fellow** artists decided to show their paintings in an **exhibition**. Critics started to call them impressionists, named after Monet's painting "*Impression: Sunrise*". Many people visited the exhibition, but the group did not sell any paintings.

In the 1880s and 90s Monet became famous in the United States and made money from selling paintings. In 1892 he married a second time. In his later life Monet travelled to London and Venice where he painted a **series** of **landscapes**. He died in 1926 in Giverny, France at the age of 86.

Monet's style of impressionism was all about nature. In his works he tried to **capture** nature as it **appeared** to him at that moment. He also experimented with light and **shadow** and how they changed during different times of the day. Some artists of the time criticized Monet and his style because they **lacked** detail and did not **resemble** finished paintings.

Monet used strong colours, which he did not **mix**. He painted them onto the **canvas** in short brush **strokes**. He was also criticized for **abandoning** classical painting **techniques**.

In his later life he became fascinated with garden scenes. In Giverny he created a series of paintings called *Water Lilies*, **impressions** from a **pond** in his own garden.



Claude Monet

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Impression, Sunrise 1872

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Waterlilies and the Japanese Bridge (1897-1899)

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