

**IMPRESSIONIST PAINTING
FOR BEGINNERS**

KEY FIGURES IN IMPRESSIONISM

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ANONYMOUS SOCIETY CHARTER MEMBERS

- Édouard Manet*
- Paul Cézanne
- Edgar Degas
- Armand Guillaumin
- Berthe Morisot
- Claude Monet
- Camille Pissarro
- Pierre-Auguste Renoir
- Alfred Sisley

** Did not exhibit with the Impressionists*

CAMILLE PISSARRO (1830-1903)



"Perhaps we all descended
from Pissarro."
- Paul Cézanne



Hoar-Frost 1873

* Painter title slide paintings were in the First Impressionist Exhibition (1874)



Chestnut Trees at Osny 1873

Born in the West Indies but but went to boarding school near Paris. Pissarro was the oldest of the Impressionists, and he was influenced by Corot, thus painting in a style that got him accepted to the Salon. However, he became friends with the younger artists, mentoring and collaborating with many of them, including Cézanne, Mary Cassatt, and Pointillists who came a little later. Pissarro was married and had 7 children, 6 of whom became painters, which isn't surprising because he was the greatest teacher of all the Impressionists.



View of Saint-Ouen-l'Aumône 1876



Orchard in Varengeville with Cow 1899



The Pontoise Harvest 1880

During the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71), he fled to London, where he got together with Monet, who was also there avoiding the war. Afterwards, when they returned to France, Pissarro learned that most of his 20 years worth of painting—more than 1,000 canvases, had been destroyed by soldiers, who used them on muddy roads and to wipe their boots.

Pissarro was successful in his lifetime. He was in the Salon, was a respected teacher, and Paul Durand-Ruel had promoted his work going back before Impressionism began. In 1893, when Pissarro was 63-y-o, Durand-Ruel had a major exhibition of 46 works by Pissarro.

A gentle soul, he did complain from time to time about how much more his friend Monet's paintings sold for.

EDGAR DEGAS (1834-1917)



Exhibit organizer, influential painter, also pastels, prints, and bronze sculptures.



The Dance Class 1874



The Laundress 1869



A Carriage at the Races 1870

In order of birth years...Edgar Degas was born in Paris to a wealthy family. Naturally artistic, by the age of 18, he had converted his room to an art studio and was a registered copyist in the Louvre, where he met Manet. Beginning in 1865, he was accepted to the Salon five years in a row, up until the Franco-Prussian War. He enlisted in the National Guard and defended Paris, and afterward his father died and family debts caused him to sell his art collection and devote himself to painting professionally.



Degas was involved as a key organizer for all 8 Impressionist exhibitions, and he collaborated with many Impressionist artists. His style shows a knowledge of the old masters that he studied in the Louvre, and influences of the Realists; but his subject matter and technique is not what we typically think of as Impressionism. He was lifelong bachelor who remained pretty secretive about his personal life, and he had a cruel wit and had on-again-off-again friendships, most notably with Mary Cassatt. In one instance, he gave her a portrait of her holding cards that she called “repugnant” and sold to Durand-Ruel saying she did not want it know that she had posed for it.

I once had the opportunity walk alone through a solo exhibit during an evening reception at the High Museum in Atlanta. I could get nose to nose with the paintings, which was incredibly special. But honestly, he’s never been one of my favorites.

ALFRED SISLEY (1839-1899)



Sisley was the most successful of the group, earning 1000 francs.



Ferry to the Ile-de-la-Loge – Flood 1872



Regatta at Molesey near Hampton Court 1872

* Not confirmed at exhibit

On the other hand, I always really related to Sisley's work. Born in Paris to British parents. He met Bazille, Monet, and Renoir at a studio where they all studied; and, they remained friends for the rest of their lives. Sisley had works accepted by the Salon, but he joined his friends in breaking away from the establishment. Because his father's business had failed during the war, Sisley turned to painting full-time.



View of Saint-Mammés 1880

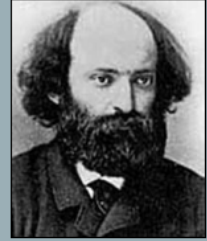


The Bridge in Moret 1888

I love Sisley's paintings, he is one of my very favorite painters, but he was not popular during his lifetime. Although he completed about 900 paintings and had some supporters and collectors, he lived in poverty with a loving wife and two children. Shortly after she died, he had cancer, and at 59 summoned Monet to his deathbed. Sisley begged his more successful friend to provide for his family, and Monet agreed. Sisley died later that day.

Now, Sisley is recognized as the major Impressionist that he was. One of his paintings has sold for over \$9MM and some have gone for \$3-4MM. However, for important Impressionist works, those are generally lower prices, and in recent years some of his paintings have gone for as low as \$200,000.

PAUL CÉZANNE (1839-1906)



Influenced avant-garde and cubism,
challenged conventions in composition



The Hanged Man's House in Auvers 1873

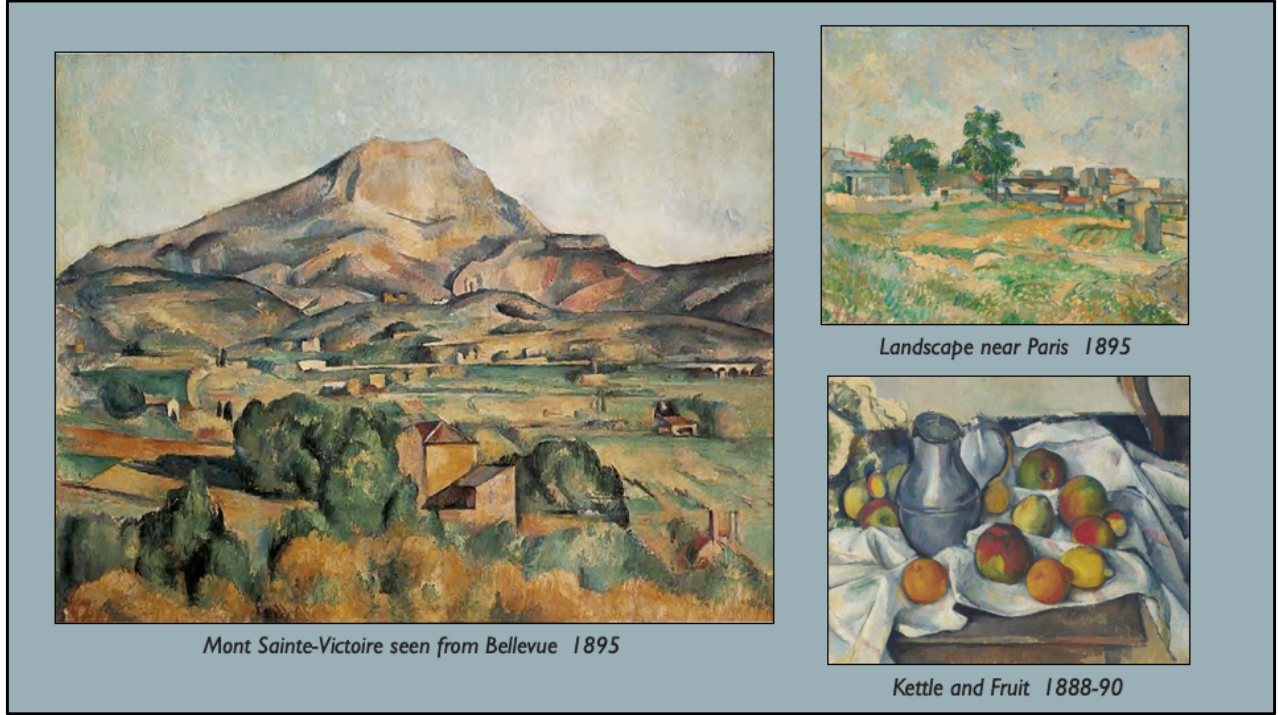


A Modern Olympia 1874



Manet: Olympia 1863

By comparison, Paul Cézanne recently had a painting sell at auction for \$138MM. Born into a prosperous French family, Cézanne is best known for his influence on the Post Impressionists and then Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse, who called Cézanne “the father to us all,” meaning Cubism and Abstract art. However, he was also cherished by his contemporaries, Monet said, “He is the greatest of us all.”

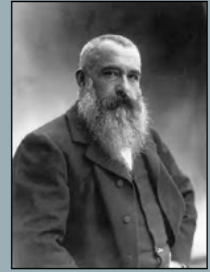


Cezanné painted Mont Sainte-Victoire at least 80 times, including watercolors.

1,300 lifetime paintings

("Kettle and Fruit" sold for \$59 million in 2019.)

CLAUDE MONET (1840-1926)



There'll be 3 presentations on Monet!



The Seine at Asnières 1873



Boulevard des Capucines 1873



Poppies at Argenteuil 1873

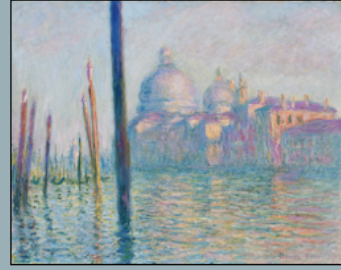
Will skip Monet for now, because I will be talking about him so much anyway.



La Gare Saint-Lazare 1877



*Grainstacks in the Sunlight,
Morning Effect 1890-91*



Grand Canal, Venice 1908



*Morning on
the Seine
1898*

PIERRE-AUGUSTE RENOIR (1841-1919)



"One must from time to time attempt things that are beyond one's capacity."



The Theater Box 1874



The Dancer 1874

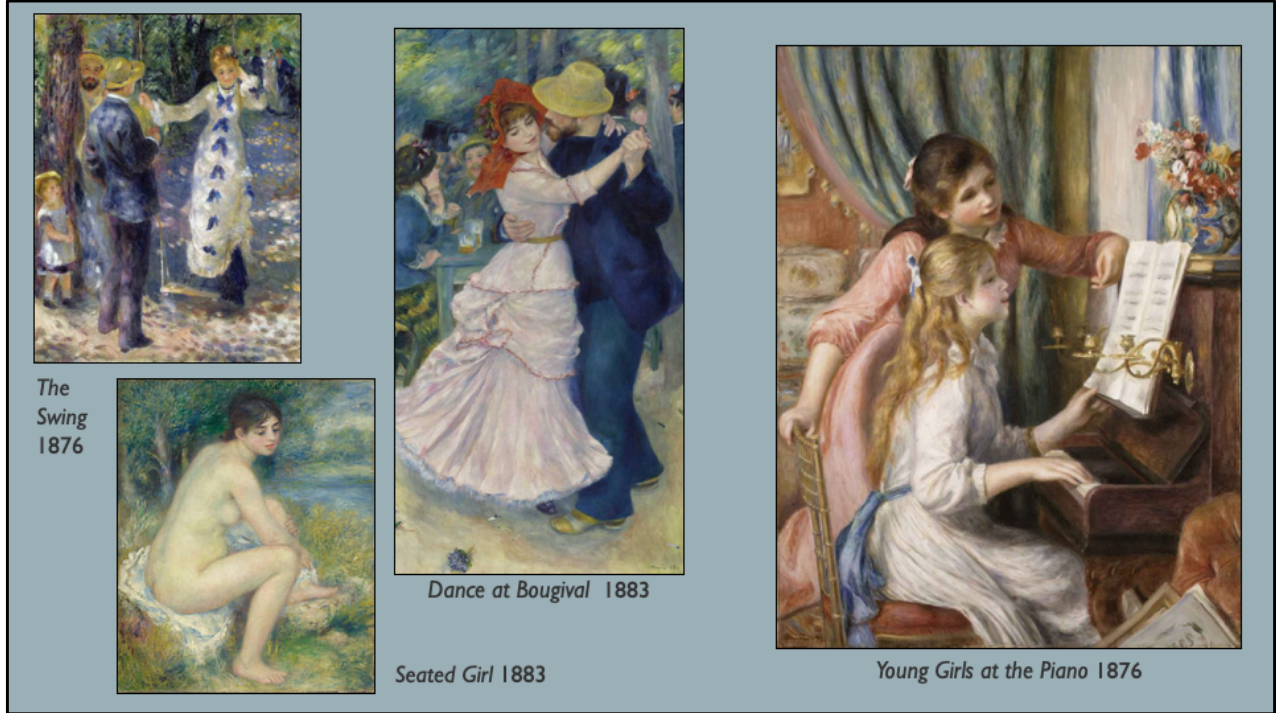


The Field (the drinking place) 1873

Renoir was born in Limoges and moved to Paris as a baby. He apprenticed as a painter of china. Copying was key to his training, and had a Louvre pass that allowed him to copy paintings. He also took drawing classes. He and Monet met at an art studio and lived together in squalor for a few years, and they remained close friends throughout their lives.

Renoir was also accepted to the Salon, before becoming one of the leading figures in the first three Impressionist Exhibitions. However, after that he returned to the Salon and became popular and successful.

Although he painted many landscapes, people were his forte—portraits, nudes, and social situations.



Renoir loved women and finally got married in 1890 to a model who was 20-years younger. A couple of years later, he developed rheumatoid arthritis. As he deteriorated over the final 20 years of his life, he continued to paint. He could not walk, and his hands were so gnarled that assistants placed his paintbrush between his fingers and tied it to his hand. His canvas was moved up and down on the easel to allow him to paint on one small area at a time.

Renoir left a legacy of about 4,000 paintings, and a virtually incalculable number of sketches and pastels. I visited the Barnes collection in Philadelphia, where more than 175 of his works are on display. You can pick up a sketch for as little as \$5,000 at auction, or an unfinished pastel for \$100,000. Better ones are worth over \$1MM. Many of his oils go for \$5MM to \$24MM, and his most expensive painting went for \$78MM at auction.

BERTHE MORISOT (1841-1895)



Hide and Seek 1872

Everyday life of women and children elegantly painted



The Cradle
1872

Born into a affluent bourgeois family (actually in Bourges!), it was commonplace for daughters to receive an education in art, was another artist who copied paintings in the Louvre. When she was 20, she met Corot and under his direction took up plein air. As a woman, she couldn't go to the cafes and drink cheap wine with writers and painters, but she did meet and befriend several of the group. She was the only woman in the first Impressionist exhibition.



Eugène Manet on the Isle of Wight 1875

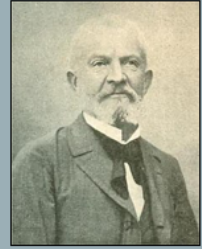


The Lesson in the Garden 1886

Her subject matter often revolved around the role women in the home, which was unique among the first wave of Impressionist. However, it is her technique that I find so appealing. The Musée Marmotton Monet in Paris has the largest collection of her work, and it fills an entire floor of the building. I've spent several hours lost in her use of color and brushstrokes. I absolutely love her paintings, and like many other men, find pictures of her to be quite attractive.

Two such men were Eduard Manet and his brother Eugène, but I'll save that story for next week.

ARMAND GUILLAUMIN (1841-1927)



Exhibited at six of the eight exhibitions, influenced the Post Impressionists and Pointilists



Place Valhubert 1875



Sunset at Ivry 1873

The final original Impressionist from the first exhibition is Armand Guillaumin. He worked for the French government railway, but studied art in Paris, where he met Cézanne and Pissarro. In 1886, he decided to become a full time painter, and while slogging along, five years later he won the lottery. He collaborated with the younger generation of painters and championed Van Gogh, Gauguin, Seurat, and Signac.



Trees near Sea with Boat c.1880



Ivry in the Snow 1873



Docks on the Seine 1875

Although his work is exemplary in the most stereotypical Impressionist style and he left at least 2,500 works of art, he's far less known than the others we've discussed. His paintings are much less expensive at auction than the others—for example, this painting (Trees) sold at auction in 2011 for about \$120,000 and even his most expensive paintings have sold for under \$500,000.

OTHER KEY FIGURES IN IMPRESSIONISM

- Frédéric Bazille – *died 1870*
- Louis Eugène Boudin – *introduced Monet to Plein Air*
- Gustave Caillebotte – *painter and patron*
- Mary Cassatt – *notable woman*
- Paul Durand-Ruel – *Parisian art dealer*

Post Impressionism, etc. will be discussed in a future session:

- Henri Edmond-Cross
- Paul Signac
- Paul Gauguin
- Toulouse-Lautrec
- Georges Seurat
- Vincent Van Gogh

FRÉDÉRIC BAZILLE (1841-1870)

Supported other painters, such as Monet, Sisley, and Renoir by buying their paintings.

When the Franco-Prussian War began, he joined up and died on the battlefield.



The Family Reunion 1867-68



Studio in Rue de La Condamine 1870

He is at the far left, behind his seated parents, was only included in the composition later. (60" x 91") Musée d'Orsay

He is standing with the palette and Manet to his left. Renoir is sitting (left).

LOUIS EUGÉNE BOUDIN (1824-1898)

Introduced Monet to landscape painting and plein air



Port Entrance, Dieppe 1896



Vacationers on the Beach at Trouville 1864



The Beach at Trouville 1871

One of the first plein air painters, he introduced Monet to landscape painting. I'll talk more about that in a couple of weeks.

GUSTAVE CAILLEBOTTE (1848-1894)



Paris Street in Rainy Weather 1877

Painter, wealthy patron, and one of the first to approach photography as an art form.



The European Bridge 1876

Art Institute of Chicago 83" x 104" (> 8 feet wide)

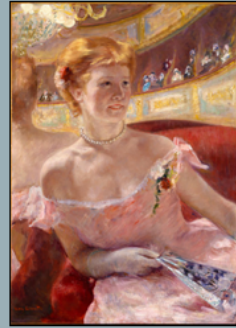
Both were shown at the 3rd Exhibition

MARY CASSATT (1844-1926)



Little Girl in a Blue Armchair 1878

Used oil paints, pastels, and printmaking to depict women and babies.



*Woman with a Pearl
Necklace in a Loge*
1879



*Children Playing on the
Beach* 1884

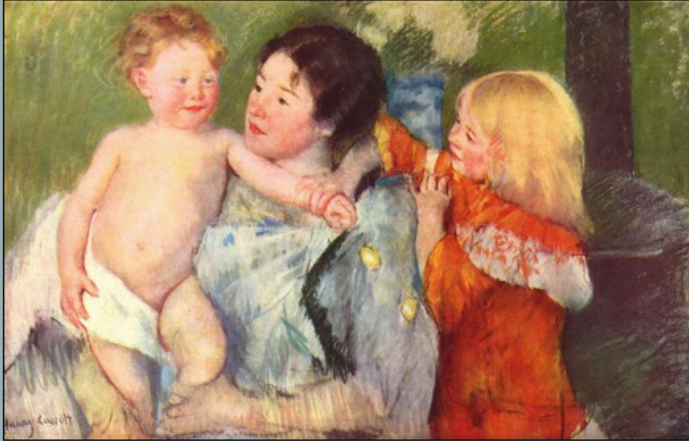
American born of French descent, visited the Paris World's Fair in 1855 (11 y-o) and saw works by Corot, Courbet, Degas, Pissarro, and others. Lived most of her life in France, but is considered the greatest American Impressionist woman painter.

Good friends with Berthe Morisot, and they were the only two women painters in the core group of Impressionists. And she also concentrated on women and girls in everyday settings.

“Little Girl in a Blue Armchair” was at the 4th exhibition, and she was brought into the group by Degas. They had a long, on again/off again association collaborating on printmaking.

Today, her oil paintings typically sell for \$2.5-6MM, but her pastels and prints are less.

PASTEL



After the Bath 1901



DRYPOINT AND AQUATINT PRINT



Woman Bathing 1890-91

[Drypoint and aquatint, printed in color from three plates; fourth state of four]

Today, her oil paintings typically sell for \$2.5-6MM, but her pastels and prints are less.

PAUL DURAND-RUEL (1831-1922)



French art dealer who championed Impressionism at its beginning and into the rest of the world.



Renoir: *Portrait of Paul Durand-Ruel* 1910

Finally, we get to the one person who made the Impressionist movement a success, Paul Durand-Ruel. He was born into a Parisian family that owned an art shop, and he went on to representing such artists as Corot, Courbet, and others. He was the first dealer to support Monet, Pissarro, and Renoir; and, he often paid them in advance or bought paintings outright—instead of on spec—because he believed in them.

He also had galleries and exhibitions in London, Berlin, and Brussels; and, he almost single-handedly introduced Impressionism in the United States, holding exhibitions in Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, and even opened a permanent gallery in New York.

His three sons also went into the business, and continued with it after his death in 1922. Durand-Ruel revolutionized the marketing of oil paintings, and you will hear more about him when I talk about Monet.