

**IMPRESSIONIST PAINTING
FOR BEGINNERS**

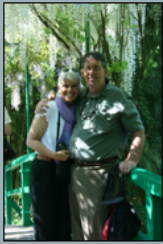
CLAUDE MONET – PART ONE

Leigh Cohn
Leigh@LeighPaintings.com

LEIGH & MONET



1987 with *La Seine á Argenteuil* (1874)



Giverny 2012

"My Year of Monet" 2019



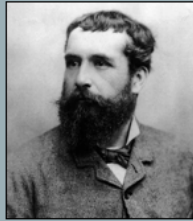
Denver 2019



CLAUDE MONET (1840-1926)



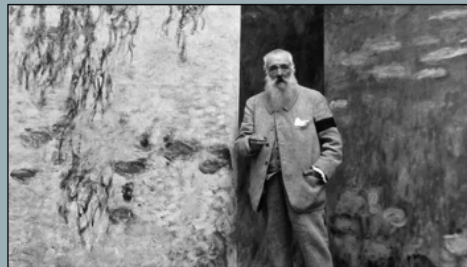
1858



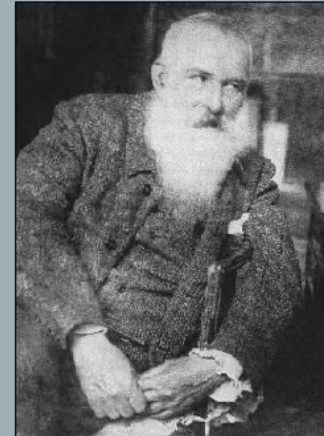
1879



1880



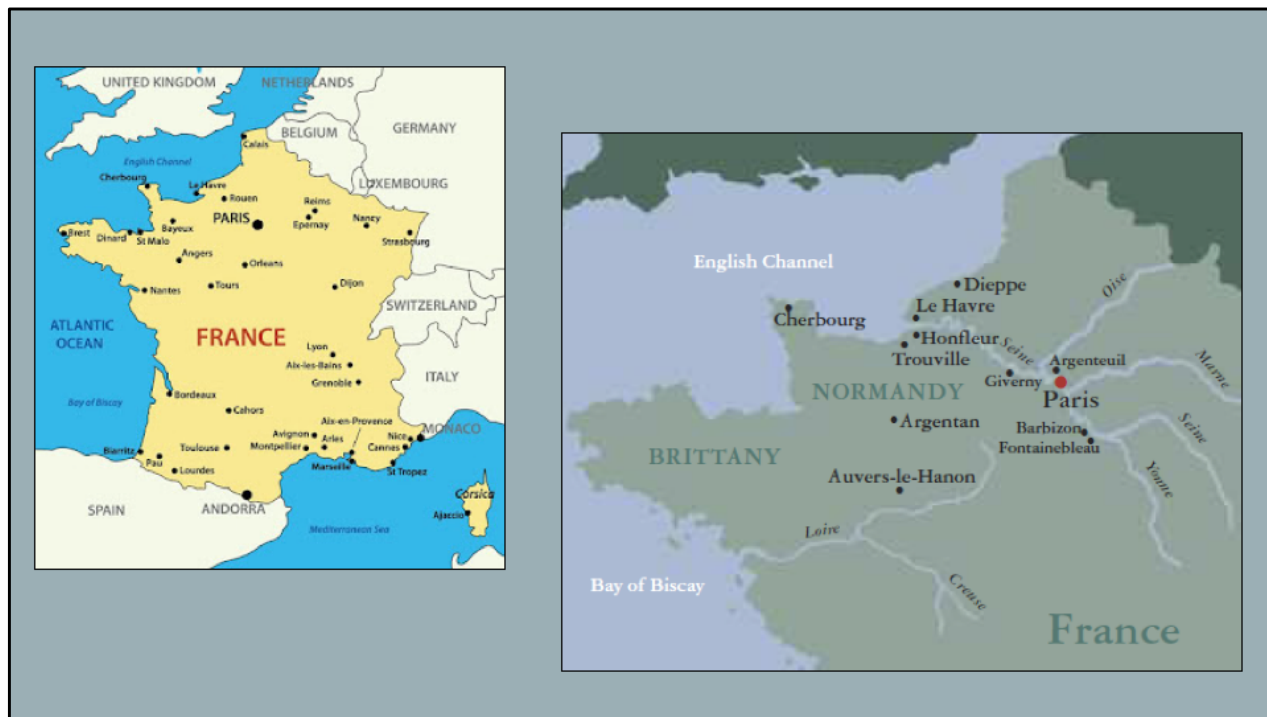
c. 1920



1926

Oscar-Claude Monet was born in Paris, November 14, 1840, and a few years later his family moved to Le Havre on the Normandy coast. His father wanted him to work in the family wholesale merchant and grocery business. His mother was a singer and encouraged his interest in art.

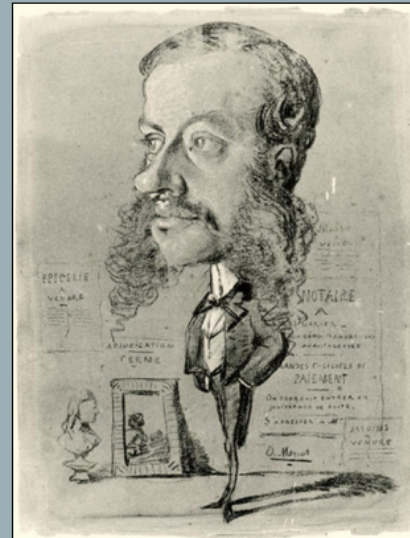
When he was 10, he entered a Le Havre art school and by 15 was selling caricatures. His mother died in 1857 and his aunt supported his art career.



Some of the key places Monet would paint and live are Le Havre, Dieppe, Honfleur, Trouville, Argenteuil, Paris, and Giverny, where he spent the second half of his life—43 years.

Paris to Le Havre takes about 3 hours by train, and it's about an hour to Giverny, where he spent the second half of his life.

STARTED DRAWING CARICATURES



Monet went on to study drawing in Paris and sold his caricatures to dailies and in shops.

At a frame shop that sold his pictures, his pictures were displayed in the window with paintings by Eugène Boudin, who was 16 years his senior. Both men were from Le Havre, and initially, Monet was repulsed by Boudin's paintings and avoided him. However, one day they bumped into each other there.

EUGENE BOUDIN



Beach Scene in Trouville 1864

Boudin said his drawings were not serious art and encouraged Monet to paint with him. Eventually, Monet reluctantly agreed. Near the end of his life Monet wrote:

"At his insistence...I bought a box of paints and we departed for Rouelles without much conviction on my part....I watched him attentively, and then suddenly, as if a veil had been torn away, I understood. I knew what painting could be. Simply by the example of that artist, engrossed in his art and independence, my destiny as a painter was opened up."



Monet: *View at Rouelles, Le Havre* 1858

Boudin introduced Monet to plein air, and this is what the 18-year-old produced.

PARIS



Farmyard in Normandy 1863



The Lighthouse by the Hospice 1864



Mouth of the Seine at Honfleur 1865

With letters of introduction to various artists, Monet went to Paris in 1859 and studied with Thomas Couture, with whom Manet had studied with a few years earlier. Monet disliked the teacher, calling him "a bad tempered fellow..." and didn't last long. He studied with others—most notably Charles Gleyre, who taught plein air—and spent two years in the Army in Algiers, traveled, and lived a Bohemian lifestyle.

He developed friendships with other students, such as Alfred Sisley and Pierre Renoir, who was his roommate for a few years, and Frederic Bazille, with whom he shared a studio—financed by the wealthy Bazille.

ASPIRATIONS FOR THE PARIS SALON



Luncheon on the Grass (section) 1865-66



He later painted a smaller version

Inspired by Manet's 1863 "Luncheon on the Grass", two years later Monet wanted to outdo him. It was a massive canvas, nearly 20-feet wide and 15-feet tall. The main models are Gustave Courbet, Frédéric Bazille, and his favorite model and lover, Camille Doncieux.

However, after one of his numerous evictions and sneaking away in the night, he left it with a landlord as surety. When he returned for the rolled up canvas, mold had destroyed some areas. He salvaged three sections, two of which now hang in the Musée d'Orsay.

CAMILLE DONCIEUX



The Woman with a Green Dress 1866



Camille on the Beach at Trouville 1870

Beginning in 1865, Monet painted Camille at least 30 times. "The Woman with a Green Dress" was accepted to the Salon In 1867, the year their son Jean was born. Since his father disapproved, Monet said he'd abandoned his mistress and baby. He also lied on the birth certificate by stating the Jean was, "the legitimate son of Claude-Oscar Monet..." although they were not married.

He wrote to a friend, "She's given birth to a big and beautiful boy, and I don't know how, but I feel that I love him. And it pains me to think of his mother with nothing to eat...Now, she and I are totally without money. "

They lived in squalor, continuously borrowing money from friends, and frequently moving. They married in 1870 so that she could inherit a 1,200 franc dowry from her father's trust—which was in her name, and thus protected from his creditors. They honeymooned in Trouville.

ARGENTEUIL



The Road Bridge at Argenteuil 1874



The Basin of Argenteuil 1872

They spent most of the Franco-Prussian War in London (his father and her trust paid). There he met Pissarro and Paul Durand-Ruel, who became his art dealer and changed the trajectory of his career. Instead of leaving France, Frédéric Bazill  enlisted and died in battle.

With an inheritance when Monet's father died and the sale of paintings, they moved to Argenteuil in 1871; and, with improved finances, in 1874, they took a long-term lease on leased a "rose colored house with green shutters" and sizeable garden.



The Studio Boat 1874



Manet 1874

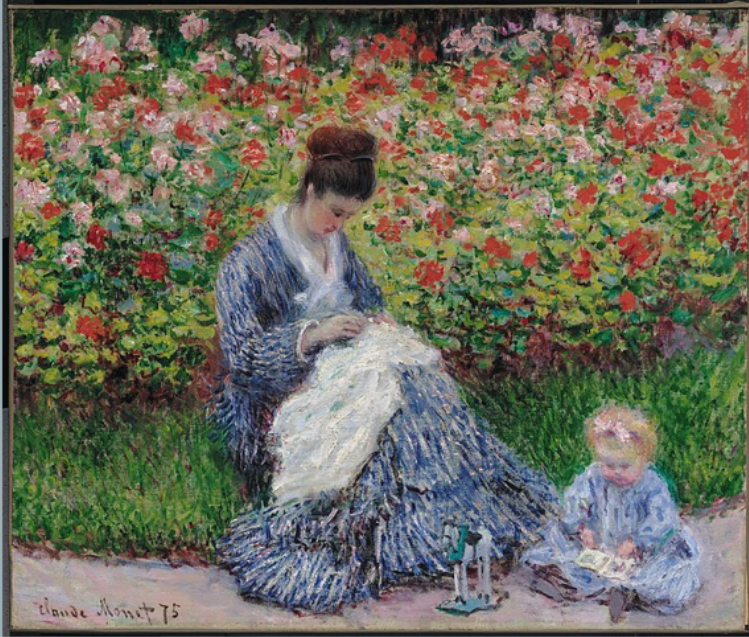


1872



Renoir 1873

He also bought an old boat from which to paint. When Monet had money, he usually spent it quickly.



Camille Monet and a Child in the Artist's Garden in Argenteuil 1875



Renoir 1874



Manet 1874

There he reached a creative zenith. Throughout the summer of 1874, Renoir and Manet visited, painting the beautiful surroundings and the Monet family.

As I said last week, when Manet chose to paint Camille and Jean in the garden, Renoir set up his easel, which irritated the older man. He later told Monet, "He's no talent, this lad! You're a friend of his, tell him to quit painting!"

MONET AND THE DAWN OF IMPRESSIONISM



Impression, Sunrise 1872



Sailboats on the Seine at Petit-Gennevilliers 1874



Le Havre, Boats Leaving the Harbor 1874

Sales were up, Monet collaborated with friends, and he was the star of the First Impressionist Exhibition (mainly by being accidentally responsible for the term "Impressionism")—all-in-all, 1874 was a really good year for Claude Monet.

ERNEST HOSCHEDÉ



Turkeys 1876



The Garden 1872



The Goods Train 1872

One of Impressionism's early enthusiasts was Ernest Hoschedé, a modestly successful businessman whose wife, Alice, had a sizeable inheritance. He commissioned paintings, paid high prices, and was obsessed with collecting. He became one of Monet's primary patrons.

Hoschedé actually bought "Impression, Sunrise," which was brokered by Durand-Ruel. However, his fortunes turned and in 1874, Ernest auctioned 80 paintings, including three by Monet. Unfortunately, that drove market prices down for the exhibition. Nonetheless, Hoschedé continued buying and selling at a loss for years.

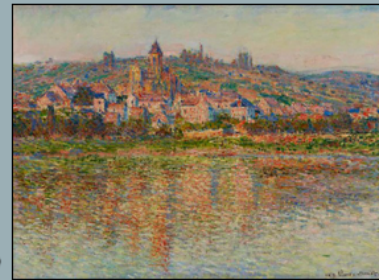
VÉTHEUIL



The Gare St-Lazare 1877



Vétheuil in Winter 1878



Vétheuil in Summer 1879

Monet sought more subject matter; and, after Camille gave birth to a second son, Michael in 1878, they rented a small house in Vétheuil.

Having declared bankruptcy the year before, Ernest Hoschedé moved his household—including a cook—into the Monet's small house. Twelve people in all, which did nothing to help an ailing Camille.

CAMILLE'S DEATH



Camille on her Deathbed 1879

Pretty quickly, Ernest left, leaving Monet as the head of two families. Camille had been ill since Michael had been born, and Alice Hoschedé nursed Monet's wife until she died September 5, 1879.

“Watching her tragic forehead, almost mechanically observing the colors which death was imposing on her rigid face. Blue, yellow, grey, what do I know? How natural to want to reproduce the last image of her, who was leaving forever...I just seemed to be compelled in an unconscious activity, the one I engage in every day, like an animal turning in its mill.”

A MIXED FAMILY



Giverny, 1886: (left to right) Claude Monet, Alice Hoschedé, Jean-Pierre H (on ground), Jacques H, Blanche H, Jean M, Michel M, Martha H, Germaine H, Suzanne H



In the Woods at Giverny: Blanche Hoschedé at Her Easel with Suzanne Hoschedé Reading • 1887



Robinson: The Wedding March. 1892

For the 12 years after Camille's death, the mixed family stayed together. The perpetually absent Ernest died in 1891, and Alice and Monet were married in '92, primarily for social reasons to give away her daughter in marriage. Although Monet was not interested in religion, Alice was. Suzanne had been Monet's favorite model—and she married an American painter, Theodore Earl Butler. A few years later, she died leaving two children, and Butler married her sister Marthe.

Incidentally, in 1897, Jean Monet married his step-sister, Blanche— Monet's assistant and the only other family member to also paint. BUT, we're getting way ahead of ourselves and will get back to this period later.



Boat Lying at Low Tide 1881



Low Tide at Varengeville 1882



The Seine at Vétheui 1881



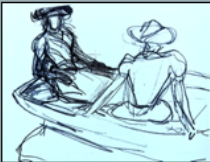
Chrysanthemums 1882

Back to Vétheui: The years after Camille's death were a combination of highs and lows. Monet traveled and painted extensively, Durand-Ruel aggressively marketed Impressionist paintings, and money came and went.

GIVERNY



John Singer Sargent:
Claude Monet 1889



Pencil sketch



Young Girls in a Row Boat 1887



Sunlight Effects under the Poplars 1887

End of Part One

In 1883, the household moved to Giverny, Monet was 43 years old, the midpoint of his life.

By 1890, his fortunes began to change. Durand-Ruel was selling a lot of his paintings, and Monet could afford the house they'd rented and its 2-acres of land. He'd spend the rest of his years in that house.

[END OF MONET: PART ONE]