



Smithsonian Associates

Camille Pissarro: Faithful Impressionist

Bonita Billman

Thursday, September 19, 2024 - 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET

Connect with Bonita Billman: billmanb@georgetown.edu

PISSARRO BRIEF BIBLIOGRAPHY

Adams, Steven *The Barbizon School & the Origins of Impressionism*, 1994

Anfam, David et al *Techniques of the Great Masters of Art*, 1987

Bouret, Jean *The Barbizon School and 19th Century French Landscape Painting*, 1973

Brettel, Richard *The Impressionist and the City: Pissarro's Series*, 1992

Brettell, Richard *Pissarro and Pontoise*, 1990

Brettell, Richard *Pissarro's People*, 2011

Callen, Anthea *The Art of Impressionism: Painting Technique and the Making of Modernity*, 2000

Callen, Anthea *Techniques of the Impressionists*, 2004

Denvir, Bernard *The Impressionists at First Hand (World of Art)*, 2023

Distel, Anne *Impressionism: The First Collectors*, 1990

Duret, Theodore *Manet and the French impressionists: Pissarro, Claude Monet, Sisley, Renoir, Berthe Morisot,2020*

Levitov, Karen *Camille Pissarro: Impressions of City and Country*, 2019

Moffett, Charles *The New Painting: Impressionism 1874-1886*, 1986

Moffett, Charles et al *Impressionists in Winter: Effets de Neige*, 2003

Muhlstein , Anka Camille Pissarro: The Audacity of Impressionism, 2023 (caveat: this biography contains several major factual errors)

Patry, Sylvie Inventing Impressionism: Paul Durand-Ruel and the Modern Art Market, 2015

Patry, Sylvie and Anne Robbins Paris 1874: The Impressionist Moment, 2024

Pissarro, Joachim Camille Pissarro, 1993

Pissarro, Joachim Pioneering Modern Painting: Cézanne and Pissarro, 1865-1885, 2007

Rewald, John The History of Impressionism, 1980

Seligman, Patricia The History and Techniques of the Great Masters, 1990

Thomson, Belinda Impressionism: Origins, Practice, Reception (World of Art), 2000

Thomson, Richard Camille Pissarro: Impressionism, Landscape and Rural Labor, 1990

Walther, Ingo Impressionist Art 1860-1920, 1886

PISSARRO CHRONOLOGY

1830 Jacob Camille Pissarro born July 10 on St Thomas to Jewish parents of mercantile class

1841 Pissarro sent to boarding school in Passy, France

1846 Pissarro back in St Thomas working for his father in mercantile business

1852 Pissarro leaves with Danish artist Fritz Melbye to Venezuela

In 1855 Pissarro arrives in Paris in time to see Exposition Universelle held in Paris; Courbet has one-man retrospective held simultaneously.

In 1856 Pissarro is working in the studio with Anton Melbye (Fritz's brother)

1857 The Pissarro family relocates to Paris. Some family members reside in London so there are cross-channel visits and letters.

1859 Pissarro has a small landscape of Montmorency accepted in the Paris Salon;

1860 Pissarro and Julie Vellay, his mother's maid, form a liaison. Pissarro and Monet meet at the Academie Suisse

1861 Painter Ludovic Piette becomes a close friend of Pissarro. Piette, who has a farm at Montfoucault, will frequently provide sustenance, spiritual comfort and encouragement to Pissarro and his growing family. Pissarro meets Cézanne and Guillaumin at the Academie Suisse. Registers as a copyist at the Louvre.

1863 First-born son Lucien Pissarro arrives; Salon des Refusés held

1865 Pissarro's father Frédéric dies. Daughter Jeanne-Rachel called "Minette" is born. Pissarro is poverty-stricken despite allowance from his mother.

1866. The Café Guerbois group forms up. Thursday night especially well-attended. Pissarro resides at Pontoise.

1868 Pissarro and Guillaumin are reduced to menial jobs, painting blinds and signs for money

1869 Monet and Renoir paint at Bougival on the Seine. Pissarro is living at Louveciennes.

1870 birth and death of daughter Adele-Emma

1870-1 Franco-Prussian War; Siege of Paris. Monet and Pissarro both flee to London and regroup there. They visit the English galleries and find they admire: works by Gainsborough, Constable and especially JMW Turner.

Monet and Pissarro are introduced to the art dealer Paul Durand-Ruel, also in exile. Fellow artist Frédéric Bazille is killed by a sniper in the closing weeks of the war. The Commune.

1871 Pissarro marries Julie Vellay in Croydon, London. Son Georges Henri Manzana is born. On his return to France, Pissarro finds most of his oeuvre has been destroyed by the Germans

1872 Pissarro moves from Louveciennes to Pontoise

1872-3 Durand-Ruel buys steadily from all the Impressionists, encouraging and emboldening them to break away from the Salon system

1873-4 Cézanne resides at Auvers, near Pontoise; Pissarro and Cézanne are close in this period.. Financial crisis develops as a result of Franco-Prussian War; six year recession follows

In October 1873 Minette falls ill

1874 Minette Pissarro dies in April. First Impressionist group exhibition held in Nadar's studio on Blvd des Capucines. Son Felix is born.

1875 Disastrous Hotel Drouot auction; average price 144 Fr for Impressionist pictures.

1876 Monet visits Hoschedé country house at Montgeron and garners commissions; stays until December;

1876 Second Impressionist exhibition; Pissarro has 12 works in the show. Family spends time at Piette's farm at Montfoucault.

1877 Third Impressionist exhibition; Pissarro shows 22 works. Organized and paid for by Gustave Caillebotte. This is a stronger, more cohesive exhibition: fewer artists, more paintings by each; Caillebotte buys 3 pictures from Pissarro, allowing him to stave off creditors. Exhibition is first financial success for the group

1877-9 Years of great financial despair for Monet, Sisley and Pissarro.

1878 Ludovic Piette dies; Ludovic-Rodolphe Pissarro (named after Piette) is born; Hoschedé menage moves in with Monet at Vétheuil.

1879 4th Impressionist Group Exhibition held; Pissarro has 38 works; Monet has 29. Paul Gauguin and Mary Cassatt join the group. Camille Doncieux Monet dies Sept, aged 32. Durand-Ruel, still recovering financially, begins to resume payments to the Impressionists. Financial hardships continue, especially for Pissarro and Sisley.

1880 Fifth Impressionist show (the weakest so far due to defections). Failure of Degas's journal *Le Jour et La Nuit* to which he, Cassatt and Pissarro were going to contribute prints. Pissarro had made his first print in 1861 but after this experience he will steadily make etchings and lithographs the rest of his life

1881 Sixth Impressionist exhibit. Pissarro gets positive reviews. Cézanne visits Pissarro at Pontoise. Durand-Ruel resumes his purchases of Impressionist pictures. Jeanne-Marguerite called "Cocotte" Pissarro is born in August.

1882 Union Generale bank collapse causes national financial crisis. Durand-Ruel is among those hard-hit. But he does display the 7th Impressionist exhibition in his gallery. Renoir declines to exhibit but his work (from Durand-Ruel's stocks) is shown. Degas and his confreres bow out. The Pissarro family moves to Osny near Pontoise to save on rent.

1883 Monet moves to Giverny. Edouard Manet dies. Lucien Pissarro moves to London to learn English. Pissarro first visits Rouen to paint, at Monet's suggestion. Durand-Ruel holds first solo exhibition of Pissarro's work, to mixed reviews. First Rouen cityscape series.

1884 Pissarro moves to Eragny near Gisors in Normandy. Durand-Ruel, still financially embarrassed; causes hardship for Pissarro. Paul-Emile Pissarro born. He is Pissarro's last child (Julie is 46).

1885 Impressionist dinners are instituted. Pissarro, long a reader of anarchist journals, becomes increasingly involved in the anarchist cause

1886 the 8th and last Impressionist Exhibition is held,. In a separate room of the exhibition are the works of pointillist painters including Seurat, Signac and Pissarro's son Lucien; Pissarro himself exhibits with these "scientific impressionists." Pissarro's financial situation is still not good; he paints many fans in gouache for quick money. Durand-Ruel sends 300 Impressionist and Barbizon School pictures to America; Durand-Ruel is hopeful of a new market there (which he finds!) Vincent van Gogh arrives in Paris to live with his brother Theo. Theo introduces his brother to Pissarro.

1887 closer contact with the van Gogh brothers leads Theo to take on sales of Pissarro's work at Boussod & Valadon; Durand-Ruel (nearing retirement) opens a branch gallery in New York City, putting his sons in charge.

1888 Pissarro begins to suffer chronic eye infections of the tear duct, which will plague him thereafter

1889 Pissarro's mother, Rachel, dies

1890 Monet buys his home Le Pressoir in Giverny where he will live the rest of his life. Lucien Pissarro moves to London permanently

1891 early collector Victor Chocquet dies

1892 Pissarro's rented house in Eragny is put up for sale. Behind her husband's back, Julie contacts Monet and secures a loan from him to buy the house.

1894 Painter and collector Gustave Caillebotte dies; he leaves his collection to the Nation (which is not entirely accepted). The beginning of the Dreyfus affair

1895 Capt. Alfred Dreyfus is stripped of his rank and deported to Devil's Island; Berthe Morisot dies, leaving Julie Manet an orphan at 16; Cézanne has giant exhibition at Vollard's gallery. Pissarro goes to Paris to help with the arrangements

1896 Pissarro paints in Rouen

1897 Lucien is ill and Pissarro travels to England to care for him; Pissarro gets to know Matisse. Son Felix Pissarro dies in Nov. aged 23.

1898 Emile Zola publishes J'accuse and goes into exile over it. Pissarro congratulates Zola on his defense of Dreyfus. Pissarro paints cityscapes in Rouen for the last time.

1899 January Alfred Sisley dies of throat cancer at Moret-sur-Loing. Pissarro paints Paris cityscapes and country scenes in Eragny

1900 Exposition Universelle held in Paris. Pissarro has 7 oil paintings on display in a large exhibition dedicated to Impressionism

1901 Pissarro paints at Moret-sur-Loing and Dieppe. Continues to work on Paris cityscapes and country scenes at Eragny. Pissarro continues to be anxious about providing for his family's security but he has repaid Monet for the house loan.

1902 Pissarro breaks with Durand-Ruel, dissatisfied with the prices the dealer offers; Emile Zola dies of carbon monoxide poisoning.

1903 Pissarro paints at Le Havre. His last work is a self-Portrait. Pissarro dies Nov. 13 1903 of a prostate abscess. He is 73. He is buried in Pere Lachaise cemetery, Paris.

1904 Paul Durand-Ruel and Lucien Pissarro organize a memorial exhibition of Pissarro's work

1922 Paul Durand-Ruel dies

1926 Julie Vellay Pissarro dies

1950 New York branch of Durand-Ruel closes, having vastly altered American art collections.

1952 Major donation of Pissarro family paintings and materials to Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

GLOSSARY

contre-jour—against the light

divisionism—the theory of applying pure marks of color next to one another to increase luminosity

en plein air—out of doors, before the motif

facture—the manner in which a painting is made—the combination of brushstrokes, marks, material, and the texture of the surface.

genre scene—a scene of everyday life

gouache—opaque watercolor

ground—the prime or base coat on the canvas. In Impressionist works usually white or light gray

impasto—thickly applied paint

monotype—a unique print pulled without etching or engraving a plate or stone

palette knife—a small trowel-like tool to apply paint in pointillism—the technique of applying dots or touches of paint

transfer lithograph—printing method of drawing on special paper which is transferred to the lithography stone

zinc lithograph (zincography)—instead of printing on a stone, the image is made on a zinc plate

FRENCH STANDARD CANVAS SIZES

Numéro	Figure (cm)	Paysage (cm)	Marine (cm)
0	18 x 14	18 x 12	18 x 10
1	22 x 16	22 x 14	22 x 12
2	24 x 19	24 x 16	24 x 14
3	27 x 22	27 x 19	27 x 16
4	33 x 24	33 x 22	33 x 19
5	35 x 27	35 x 24	35 x 22
6	41 x 33	41 x 27	41 x 24
8	46 x 38	46 x 33	46 x 27
10	55 x 46	55 x 38	55 x 33
12	61 x 50	61 x 46	61 x 38
15	65 x 54	65 x 50	65 x 46
20	73 x 60	73 x 54	73 x 50
25	81 x 65	81 x 60	81 x 54
30	92 x 73	92 x 65	92 x 60
40	100 x 81	100 x 73	100 x 65
50	116 x 89	116 x 81	116 x 73
60	130 x 97	130 x 89	130 x 81
80	146 x 114	146 x 97	146 x 89
100	162 x 130	162 x 114	162 x 97
120	195 x 130	195 x 114	195 x 97