



Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Painting in France

Dr. Nancy G. Heller

Tuesdays, October 7 to November 4, 2025 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

GENERAL STUDIES:

- Norma Broude, *Impressionism: A Feminist Reading* (Avalon, 1991)
Robert L. Herbert, *Impressionism: Art, Leisure, and Parisian Society* (Yale, 1991)
Mary Tomkins Lewis (ed.), *Critical Readings in Impressionism and Post-Impressionism: An Anthology* (University of California Press, 2007)
Sylvie Patry (ed.), *Inventing Impressionism: Paul Durand-Ruel and The Modern Art Market* (National Gallery Co., 2015)
Sylvie Patry and Anne Robbins, *Paris 1874: The Impressionist Moment* (National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, 2024)
John Rewald, *The History of Impressionism* (Abrams, 1993)
Sue Roe, *The Private Lives of the Impressionists* (Harper, 2006)
MaryAnne Stevens, et al, *After Impressionism: Inventing Modern Art* (National Gallery [London], 2023)

INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS (in the order in which they were discussed):

- Beth Archer Brombert, *Edouard Manet: Rebel in a Frock Coat* (University of Chicago, 1996)
Marianne Mathieu (ed.), *Julie Manet: An Impressionist Heritage* (Éditions Hazan, 2022)
“ ” “ , *Berthe Morisot: Shaping Impressionism* (Dulwich Picture Gallery, 2023)
Christoph Heinrich, *Claude Monet: Truth of Nature* (Prestel, 2019)
Ross King, *Mad Enchantment: Claude Monet and the Painting of the Waterlilies* (Bloomsbury, 2016)
Daniel Wildenstein, *Monet: The Triumph of Impressionism* (Taschen, 2022)
John House and Martha Lucy, *Renoir in the Barnes Foundation* (Yale, 2012)
Jean Renoir, et al, *Renoir, My Father* (NYRB Classics, 2001)
Jean Sutherland Boggs, *Degas* (National Gallery of Canada, 1988)
Jill DeVonyar, et al, *Degas and the Dance* (Abrams, 2002)
Nancy Mowll Mathews, *Mary Cassatt: A Life* (Yale, 1998)
Scott Allan, et al, *Gustave Caillebotte: Painting Men* (J. Paul Getty Museum, 2025)
Robert L. Herbert, et al, *Seurat and the Making of “La Grande Jatte”* (University of California Press, 2004)
Dita Amory, *Madame Cézanne* (Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2014)
James H. Rubin, *Paul Cézanne: A – Z* (Hatje Cantz, 2022)

Starr Figura (ed.), *Gauguin: Metamorphoses* (Museum of Modern Art, 2014)
Ronald de Leeuw (ed.), *The Letters of Vincent Van Gogh* (Penguin Classics, 1998)
Ingo F. Walther and Rainer Metzger, *Van Gogh: The Complete Paintings* (Taschen, 2020)
Steven Naifeh and Gregory White Smith, *Van Gogh: The Life* (Random House, 2012)

[N.B.: There are also many children's books about these artists, plus historical novels and volumes focused on everything from Monet's Giverny gardens to artist-related recipes. In addition, there is a significant bibliography about non-French Impressionists such as the Anglo-American painter John Singer Sargent and the Spaniard Joaquín Sorolla. Other books survey Pennsylvania Impressionists, Canadian Impressionists, etc.]

RELATED TOPICS (books and articles):

Hans Lujten and Lynne Richards, *Jo van Gogh-Bonger: The Woman Who Made Vincent Famous* (Bloomsbury, 2022)
Denise Murrell, *Posing Modernity: The Black Model from Manet and Matisse to Today* (Yale, 2018)
Peter Schjeldahl, "Peerless: The Paintings of Berthe Morisot," *The New Yorker*, October 29, 2018, pp. 72-73 [exhibition review]
Reagan Upshaw, "Suzanne Valadon Was So Much More Than Just the Woman in Renoir's Paintings," *The Washington Post*, March 12, 2018 [book review]

OTHER RESOURCES:

There are many documentary films and t.v. movies about these artists.

Noteworthy feature films include:

Cézanne and I—about the relationship between French writer Émile Zola and the painter (2016, directed by Danièle Thompson);
Gauguin: Voyage to Tahiti, starring Vincent Cassel (2017, directed by Édouard Deluc)
Lust for Life—a drama about Van Gogh, starring Kirk Douglas (1956, directed by Vincente Minnelli);
Vincent and Theo—about the Van Gogh brothers' relationship, starring Tim Roth as Vincent and Paul Rhys as Theo (1990, directed by Robert Altman); and
Loving Vincent—an experimental feature, based on animations of Van Gogh's paintings (2017, directed by Dorota Kobiela and Hugh Welchman).

There is also a 1986 film of the original Broadway (1983) cast, featuring Mandy Patinkin and Bernadette Peters, performing Stephen Sondheim & James Lapine's award-winning musical *Sunday in the Park With George*, inspired by Georges Seurat's famous painting *La Grande Jatte*. (See IMDB for more information.)

PRINCIPAL TERMS, NAMES, CONCEPTS:

"painterly" paintings (with thick pigment and unblended brushstrokes)
painting *en plein air* (outdoors)
Impressionism vs. impressionism (a specific movement/place/time, vs. stylistic qualities)
Diego Velázquez (1599-1660)
Victorine Meurent (Manet's favorite model)

fête champêtre (a garden party/picnic)
Le Salon (prestigious, annual Parisian art exhibition)
Le Salon des Refusés (1863)
 Berthe Morisot (1841-1895)
 Monet's early teachers: Eugène Boudin, Charles Gleyre
 Monet's wives: Camille Doncieux, Alice Hoschedé
 Paul Durand-Ruel (influential art dealer)
 Impressionist group exhibitions: 1874, '76, '77, '79, '80, '81, '82, & '86
 Japonisme
 influence of photography
 Seward Johnson's "Grounds for Sculpture" (Hamilton, NJ)
 Giverny (where Monet lived, and painted, during his last years)
 Monet's late series (1890s+): Rouen Cathedral, poplar trees, haystacks, waterlilies
 Lilla Cabot Perry (American painter, Monet's neighbor)
 Ai Weiwei (Chinese dissident artist; in 2022 re-made Monet's *Waterlilies* out of LEGOs)
 the "Japanese" bridge at Giverny
 Limoges porcelain
 art students copying Old Master art at the Louvre
 École des Beaux-Arts (Paris, prestigious government-sponsored art school)
 Charles Gleyre (Renoir's early teacher)
 Renoir and women, "the male gaze," his late nudes
 Lise Tréhot (a favorite early model of Renoir's)
 Aline Charigot (Renoir's first wife)
 Pierre Renoir (the artist's elder son; became a successful actor)
 Jean Renoir (his second son; became a pioneering filmmaker)
 Claude "Coco" Renoir (the Renoirs' third son; became a part-time actor and ceramicist)
 Gabrielle Renard (Aline's cousin, the family's nanny, and another of Renoir's favorite models)
 Montmartre (the "bohemian" part of Paris where many now-famous 19th-century artists lived)
 La Maison Fournaise, the restaurant in Châton, site of Renoir's *Boating Party* painting
 Duncan Phillips (founder of the Phillips Collection; important collector of modern art)
 Dr. Albert C. Barnes (established the Barnes Museum; another prominent collector)
 The concept of "Beauty"; changing art-historical tastes; individual artists' goals (cf. Matisse)
 Richard Guino (French artist who assisted Renoir with his sculpture)
 Cagnes-sur-Mer (coastal village in the south of France where Renoir lived, 1907+)
 J.A.D. Ingres, 19th-century French Neoclassical painter; inspired Degas
 Hiroshige, 19th-century Japanese master of color woodblock prints; inspired the Impressionists
"les petits rats," nickname for members of the corps, Paris Opéra Ballet, painted by Degas
 The Dreyfus Affair
 Marie van Goethem (model for Degas' "Little Dancer" sculpture)
 Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia (established in 1805)
 Jean-Léon Gérôme, 19th-century French academic painter; early teacher of Mary Cassatt
 Franco-Prussian War (1870-71)
 Mary Cassatt's lost mural for the World's Columbian Exposition/Chicago World's Fair of 1893
Le Château Beaufresne, Mary Cassatt's home in Le Mesnil-Théribus (France)

Post-Impressionism

Conté crayons

Pointillism (a.k.a. Neo-Impressionism, Divisionism)

Eugène Chevreul, color theorist; influenced Seurat

"Sunday in the Park with George," 1984 hit/award-winning Broadway musical by Stephen

Sondheim, based on the Seurat painting

Madeleine Knobloch, Seurat's girlfriend/model

The Moulin Rouge, Paris cabaret and birthplace of the cancan

Aix-en-Provence, Provençal culture

Émile Zola, noted 19th-century French writer and close friend of Cézanne's

Le Collège Bourbon, the local *lycée* (high school) attended by Cézanne and Zola

L'Académie Suisse, Parisian art school where Cézanne received his early training

Hortense Figuet, Cézanne's wife and muse

répoussoir elements in a painting

"cancel culture" & Gauguin

French Polynesia: Tahiti and the island of Hiva Oa, where Gauguin died

Tehamaha (Gauguin's 13-year-old Tahitian wife)

Mette Gad (Gauguin's Danish wife)

Point-Aven, Brittany (where Gauguin spent time in 1888)

Arles (southern France, where Gauguin lived briefly with Van Gogh)

Theo van Gogh (Vincent's brother, an art dealer)

"The Yellow House" where van Gogh lived, in Arles

Jacques Brel (popular Belgian singer, buried on the same Polynesian island as Gauguin)

1906 Salon d'Automne, Paris (Gauguin retrospective; very influential)

Kehinde Wiley (b. 1977), African-American artist "inspired by" Gauguin's art

St. Paul de Mausole (mental hospital) at St. Rémy in Provence, France

village of Auvers-sur-Oise, where van Gogh spent his final months

Dr. Paul Gachet, van Gogh's physician, late in life

PRINCIPAL ARTWORKS DISCUSSED:

Édouard Manet, *Mlle. V. in the Costume of an Espada*, 1862, Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC)

Manet, *Le Déjeuner sur l'Herbe*, 1863, Musée d'Orsay (Paris)

Manet, *Olympia*, 1863, Musée d'Orsay

Manet, *A Bar at the Folies-Bergère*, 1882, Courtauld Gallery (London)

Claude Monet, *Sailboats/Regatta at Argenteuil*, 1872, Musée d'Orsay

Monet, *Impression: Sunrise*, 1872, Musée Marmottan Monet (Paris)

Monet, *Boulevard des Capucines*, 1873, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (Kansas City, Missouri)

Monet, *Woman with a Parasol/Mme. Monet and Her Son*, 1875, National Gallery of Art (DC)

Monet, *Waterlilies* (triptych), 1914-1926, Museum of Modern Art (NYC)

Pierre-Auguste Renoir, *Nude in the Sunlight*, 1875, Musée d'Orsay

Renoir, *A Dance at the Moulin de la Galette*, 1876, Musée d'Orsay

Renoir, *The Luncheon of the Boating Party*, 1881, Phillips Collection (Washington, DC)

Renoir, *Mme. Charpentier and Her Children*, 1878, Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC)

Renoir, *Girls at the Piano*, 1892, Metropolitan Museum

Renoir, *The Large Bathers*, 1887, Philadelphia Museum of Art (PA)

Berthe Morisot, *The Cradle*, 1872, Musée d'Orsay

Eva Gonzalès, *Morning Awakening*, 1876, Kunsthalle, Bremen (Germany)

Marie Bracquemond, *Sur la Terrasse à Sèvres*, 1880, Le Musée du petit palais, Geneva (Switzerland)

Suzanne Valadon, *The Blue Room*, 1923, Le Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou (Paris)

Edgar Degas, *Self-Portrait* (doffing his hat), 1862, Calouste Gulbenkian Museum, Lisbon (Portugal)

Degas, *Hortense Valpinçon*, c.1871, Minneapolis Institute of Arts (Minnesota)

Degas, *Place de la Concorde*, 1876, Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg (Russia)

Degas, *The Rehearsal*, c.1874, The Burrell Collection, Glasgow (Scotland)

Degas, *Orchestra at the Paris Opéra*, c.1869-1872, Musée d'Orsay

Degas, *The Little Dancer, 14 Years Old* [sculpture], 1881, National Gallery (Washington, DC)

Mary Cassatt, *Lydia in a Loge, with a Pearl Necklace*, 1879, Philadelphia Museum of Art (PA)

Cassatt, *Lady at the Tea Table (Mrs. Riddle)*, 1885, Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC)

Cassatt, *Little Girl in a Blue Armchair*, 1878, National Gallery (DC)

Cassatt, *Breakfast in Bed*, 1897, Huntington Art Museum, San Marino (CA)

Cassatt, *The Letter*, 1891, from her series of prints (various collections)

Georges Seurat, *Portrait of Aman-Jean*, 1882-83 (Conté crayon drawing), Met.

Seurat, *Bathers at Asnières*, 1884 (National Gallery, London)

Seurat, *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*, 1884-86 (Art Institute of Chicago)

Seurat, *The Models*, 1886-88, Barnes Museum (Philadelphia, PA)

Seurat, *Le Chahut* (The Cancan), 1889-90, Kröller-Müller Museum (Otterlo, Netherlands)

Paul Cézanne, *The Artist's Father Reading a Newspaper*, 1866 (National Gallery of Art, DC)

Cézanne's series: portraits of his Uncle Dominique; portraits of his wife; still-lives with apples; Mont Sainte-Victoire; men playing cards.

Paul Gauguin, *The Vision After the Sermon (Jacob Wrestling with the Angel)*, 1888, Scottish National Galleries (Edinburgh)

Gauguin, *Self-Portrait with a Halo*, 1889 (National Gallery of Art, DC)

Gauguin's many colorful paintings of Polynesian people and landscapes

Gauguin, *Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?*, 1897-98 (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)

Vincent Van Gogh, *The Potato Eaters*, 1885, Van Gogh Museum, (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

Van Gogh's series of *Self-Portraits*, sunflowers, irises (in various locations)

Van Gogh, *Mme. Augustine Roulin*, 1889, Metropolitan Museum of Art

Van Gogh, *The Night Café*, 1888, Yale University Art Gallery (New Haven, CT)

Van Gogh, *Bedroom in Arles*, 1888 (Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam)

Van Gogh, *The Starry Night*, 1889, Museum of Modern Art (NYC)

Van Gogh, *Wheatfield with Crows*, July 1890 (Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam)

Van Gogh, *Tree Roots*, July 1890 (Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam)

A FEW RECENT/UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS:

- "Monet and his Modern Legacy," Nelson-Atkins Museum (Kansas City, MO), 2023-24
- "Monet and London," Courtauld (London, England), 2024-25
- "Monet and Venice," Brooklyn Museum, 2025-26
- "Manet/Degas," Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC), 2023-24
- "Edgar Degas: Multi-Media Artist in the Age of Impressionism," Clark Institute (Williamstown, MA), 2024
- "Matisse and Renoir," Barnes Museum (Philadelphia), 2024
- "Renoir's Drawings," Morgan Museum & Library (NYC), 2025
- "Renoir and Love," Musée d'Orsay (Paris), 2026
- "Berthe Morisot: Woman Impressionist," Barnes Museum (Philadelphia), 2018-19
- "Berthe Morisot and the Art of the 18th Century," Musée Marmottan Monet (Paris), 2023-24
- "Manet and Morisot," San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 2025
- "Mary Cassatt at Work," Philadelphia Museum of Art, 2024
- "Mary Cassatt and Berthe Morisot: Allies in Impressionism," Fenimore Art Museum (Otsego, NY), 2025
- "Seurat and the Sea," Courtauld (London), 2026
- "Cézanne and Renoir," Palazzo Reale (Milan, Italy), 2024
- "Cézanne 2025," a series of events in 2025
- "Gauguin in the World," Museum of Fine Arts Houston (TX), 2025

PLUS:

- "Van Gogh: Poets and Lovers," National Gallery of Art (London), 2024-25
- "Ultra-Violet: New Light on Van Gogh's Irises," Getty Museum (Los Angeles), 2024-25
- "Matthew Wong – Vincent Van Gogh," Kunsthaus Zurich (Switzerland), 2024-25
- "Van Gogh: The Roulin Family Portraits," Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 2025
- "Van Gogh's Home: The Van Gogh Museum," Osaka City Museum of Fine Arts (Japan), 2025
- "The Potato," Noordbrabant Museum (Netherlands), 2025
- "Van Gogh: The Great Passion," Hongaram Art Museum (S. Korea), 2025
- "How Van Gogh Came to Groningen," Groninger Museum (Netherlands), 2025
- "Grand Van Gogh Exhibition," Kobe City Museum (Japan), 2026

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