

Impressionism

Claude Monet was one of the first **Impressionist** artists.

In fact, the name, **Impressionist**, comes from a painting Monet painted called Impression, Sunrise.

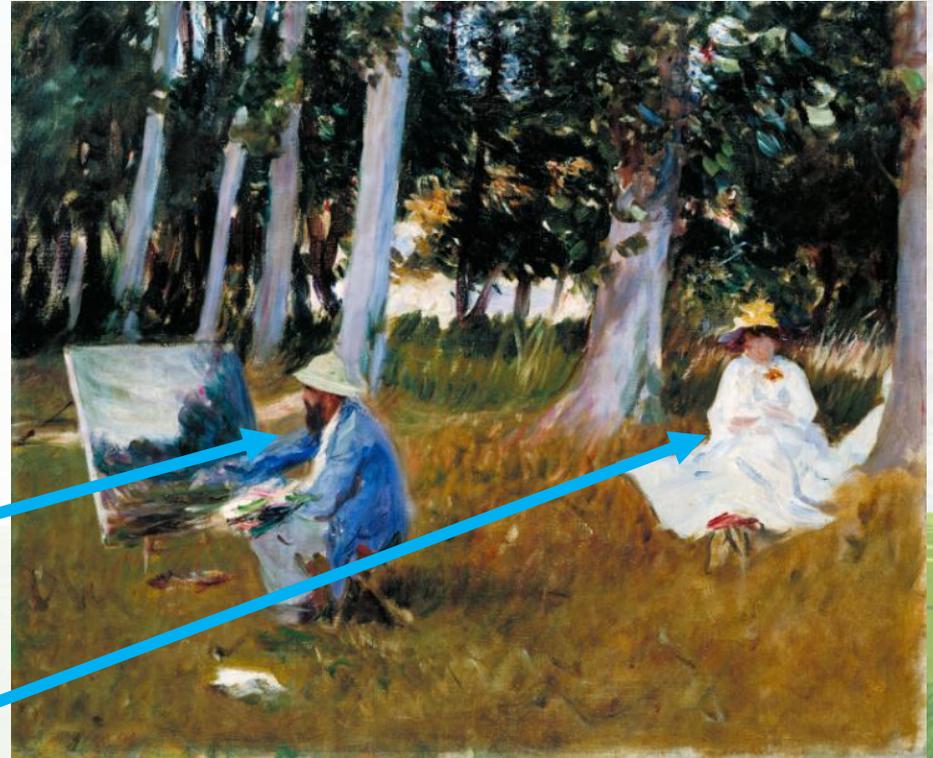
An **impression** is an idea or feeling you get about something when you see it, e.g. when the sun is shining brightly and it feels nice. Impressionist artists try and capture that exact idea and put it into a painting for others to feel too.



What Does Impressionism Look Like?

Impressionists weren't too bothered about making something look really realistic! They were more interested in capturing the light, the feelings and the ideas.

They painted quickly and used thick brush strokes – they didn't really do the tiny details like people's faces! Usually the brush strokes were quite erratic and messy, and they were not joined up or blended.

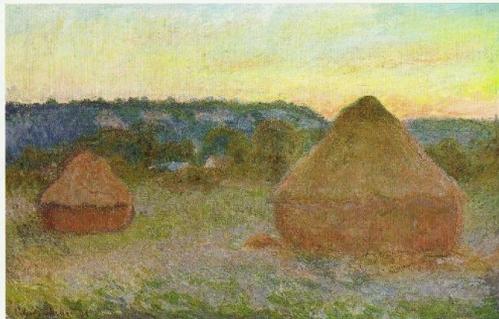
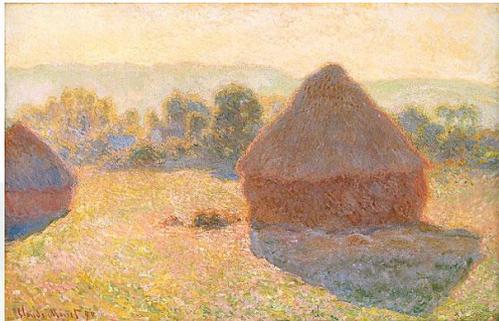


Changing Light

Light is a big thing in impressionism! It can really change the impression you get of the thing you are painting.

Monet often painted the same things in different lights, e.g. these haystacks.

How does the changing light affect the feel of the paintings?



Have a think...



These are all paintings of the Houses of Parliament. Each one is painted in a different kind of light.

What kind of ideas do you get when you look at each one?

The first one makes me think back to our Great Fire of London topic! But when I look at all 4 together, it makes me think of the seasons, like the trees we did before the holidays.

Your Task

Choose an object that you would like to paint or draw – it could be anything, a vase, a pencil pot, a bag or even a person! You can use any material you like – paint and wax crayon work really well, but you could do it in pencil too.



Have a go at creating an impressionist style picture of your object. Use bright colours and big, erratic strokes of paint/crayon/pencil. Can you make it look like the object you are trying to draw? *This is quite tricky so don't worry if it doesn't look perfect!*