Impressionism @ SPLASH

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1. Ask Questions
2. Take candy
3. Have fun!

**Outline**

* Introduction
* Characteristics
* Major Artists
* Legacy

**Introduction**

* Brief History
  + French art dominated by Academy de Beaux Arts/Salon
  + Influences: Corot (en plein air), Boudin(Master of the skies)
  + 1863 – Salon de Refuses
  + 1870 – Franco-Prussian war
  + 1874 – First independent exhibition – at Nadar’s
  + 1870’s, early 1880’s – More expositions – “pure” impressionism
  + Mid 1880’s - Breakup of the group
  + 1880’s and 1890’s – Post Impressionism
* Reception
  + Hated at first
  + “Impression!...Wallpaper in its embryonic form is more finished” - Leroy
  + Break from the academy
  + “"Try to make Monsieur Pissarro understand that trees are not violet; that the sky is not the color of fresh butter...and that no sensible human being could countenance such aberrations...try to explain to Monsieur Renoir that a woman’s torso is not a mass of decomposing flesh with those purplish-green stains” – Wolff

**Characteristics**

* Academy Style
  + Deep rich colors, shadows
  + Plain natural background
  + Traditional composition
  + Smooth, fine brushwork
* Impressionists
  + Everyday scenes
    - Paris – Manet/Degas
    - Nature – Normandy – Le Havre, Saint-Adresse, Honfleur
  + Naturalistic composition
  + Nature without idealization
  + Vibrant colors
  + Quick, spontaneous brushstroke
  + Influence of the camera
    - Candid groupings
    - Off-center focus
    - Spontaneous poses
  + Themes
    - Nature
    - Everyday people
    - Signs of human activity – nature as a social experience
    - Paris
    - Ephemeral

**Major Artists**

* Monet(Water Lilies; Haystacks; Rouen Cathedral; Saint Lazare station)
* Manet (Bar at the Folies- Bergere; Olympia)
* Degas (The Dance Class, Blue Dancers)
* Renoir (Luncheon of the Boating Party; The Umbrellas)
* Cezanne (Still life with fruit basket; The Hanged Man’s House in Auvers-sur Oise)
* Pissarro (Landscape at Pontoise; The Boulevard Montmarte at Night)
* Sisley (Chemin de la Machine, Louveciennes; L’iondation a Pont-Marly)
* Cassatt (Summertime; The Boating Party; The Bath)
* Morisot (After Luncheon)

**Legacy**

* Post-Impressionists
  + Homer
  + Van Gogh
  + Seurat
  + Gaugin
  + Expressionism, Cubism
* Popularity Today
  + Worth a LOT!
  + We see ourselves in them – modern subjects
  + Light, pleasant
  + Human take on recording events
  + Thoughts?

“A blond light pervades them, and everything is gaiety, clarity, spring festivals, golden evenings or apple trees in blossom. They are windows opening on the joyous countryside, on rivers full of pleasure boats stretching into the distance, on a sky which shines with light mists, on the outdoor life, panoramic and charming.” - Silvestre