

THE EFFECT OF
"IMPRESSION, SUNRISE"
ON MODERN ART

By: Sydney Burzynski

At the marina's edge in Le Havre, France, an artist named Claude Oscar Monet stares out at the water. He stands beside an easel, and with a paintbrush in hand adds a few more strokes of paint to the canvas. All the while, the sun is rising higher in the sky, eliminating the fog from the night.

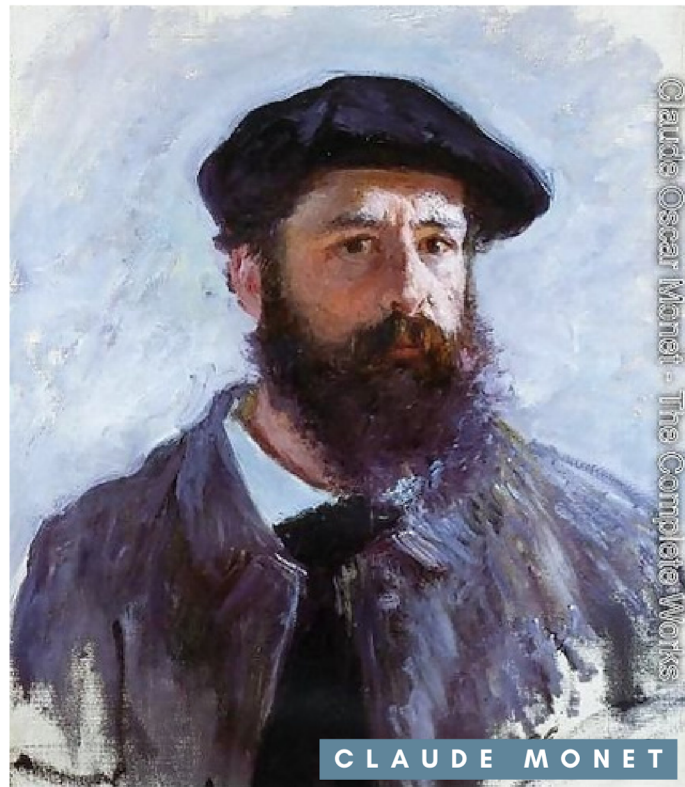
"Impression Sunrise" (1872) is thought of by art critics today as remarkable. The piece served as the introduction of the impressionist movement and continues to inspire other artistic movements today. Most notably, the movements developed within the modern era, including post-impressionism, abstract expressionism, and modern contemporary. These all took inspiration from this work and from impressionism.

Monet was a French artist who is widely known for his contribution to the impressionist movement. He painted

numerous landscapes portraying the various scenes of France. His most popular paintings were done in his own backyard in Giverny, where Monet had several gardens, a pond, and flowers galore.

Impressionism took inspiration from nature and often featured nature as the main subject. Artists would often take their supplies and paint en plein air (meaning outside). The saturation of colors on the canvas was a result of the changing position of the sunlight throughout the day. Also characteristic of the impressionist movement was thick, broken up brushstrokes. This type of painting differentiated impressionist paintings from the classical, realist painting style.

Each art movement that followed impressionism, borrowed at least one single aspect. Post-impressionism continued to use similar brushwork, with thick brushstrokes



that are broken up into pieces. Vincent Van Gogh, a post-impressionist artist, was inspired by impressionism. Abstract impressionism borrowed the way objects were portrayed in form. Artists like Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko were inspired by impressionism forms. Modern contemporary is dependent upon the artist, but many still use various aspects of the impressionist movement.

“Impression Sunrise” is widely considered the first artwork within the impressionist movement. The title of the work, “Impression Sunrise”, inspired the name of the movement. An art critic attempted to use the word impressionism as an insult, claiming the painting was only an impression of the real-life scene since it appeared unfinished. But impressionist artists took the word and created a movement out of it. After Monet created the painting, it was shown in an exhibition in 1874. There it received a mix of criticism and praise. Today, the painting resides within the Musée Marmottan-Monet, in Paris, France. It is one

of the most popular paintings in the collection today.

Alongside Monet, other popular impressionist artists included Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Edouard Manet, Frederic Bazille, and Alfred Sisley. Each one helped to contribute to impressionism and defined the key characteristics that make its effects everlasting.

