Lecture summary:

Over the course of the 19th century painting went through an extraordinary transformation and the experience of working the open air played a central role. The Rome Prize for historical landscape reflected the new prestige of the genre. However, the small, private oil studies on paper painted in and around Rome designed as preparations for grand historical compositions were soon superseded. Independent-minded Realist painters had already relocated the plein-air tradition to France, making paintings on canvas conceived, if not finished, in the open air, with a view to public exhibition. Simultaneously, their world was being transformed by unprecedented industrial and technological change, from the increased mobility afforded by railways to the mass-production of art materials, the proliferation of new synthetic colours, and the rise of photography. In this context the Impressionists embraced a radically simplified agenda of capturing the direct sensory experience of the world as they found it – leading to an outpouring of creativity and technical innovation as they strove to find equivalents for the multiplicity of nature’s effects. From the lightest sketches to the most heavily encrusted impasto, the luminous surfaces of these canvases, testament to the perseverance and presence of their makers, continues to fascinate viewers all over the world.

Slide list:

1. Claude Monet, Walk (Road on the Farm Saint Siméon), 1864, 81.6 x 46.4 cm, Tokyo, National Museum of Western Art
2. Claude Monet, The Rue Montorgueil in Paris: Celebration of June 30, 1878, oil on canvas, 81 x 50 cm, Paris, Musée d’Orsay
3. Pierre-August Renoir, Road Near Marlotte, 1865, oil on canvas, 33 x 24.1 cm, private collection
4. Pierre-August Renoir, The Skiff, 1875, oil on canvas, 71 x 92 cm, London, National Gallery
5. Berthe Morisot, Reading, 1873, oil on canvas, 64 x 71.8 cm, Cleveland, Museum of Art
6. Berthe Morisot, Eugène Manet and his Daughter in the Garden, 1883, oil on canvas, 60 x 73 cm, Private Collection
7. Alfred Sisley, Women Going to the Woods, 1866, oil on canvas, 65.2 x 92.2 cm, Tokyo, Bridgestone Museum of Art
8. Alfred Sisley, A path at Les Sablons, 1883, oil on canvas, 46 x 55 cm, Canberra, National Gallery
9. Paul Cézanne, Landscape near Aix-en-Provence, 1865, oil on canvas, 40.5 x 58.5 cm, private collection
10. Paul Cézanne, La Côte des Galets, at Pontoise, 1880, oil on canvas, 60 x 75.6 cm, private collection
11. Claude Monet, The Studio Boat, 1886, oil on canvas, 72.7 x 60 cm, Philadelphia, The Barnes Foundation
12. Charles-François Daubigny, St Pauls from the Surrey Side, 1871-3, oil on canvas, 44.5 x 81 cm, London, National Gallery
13. Claude Monet, The Thames Below Westminster, c. 1871, oil on canvas, 47 x 73 cm, London, National Gallery
14. Paul Cézanne, Mont Sainte-Victoire, 1887, oil on canvas, 67 x 92 cm, London, Courtauld Institute of Art
15. Gustave Courbet, The Valley of the Ornans, 1858, oil on canvas, 89.5 x 116.5 cm, Saint Louis Art Museum
16. Camille Pissarro, Jallais Hill Pontoise, 1867, oil on canvas, 87 x 114.9 cm, New York, Metropolitan Museum of Art
17. Claude Monet, Port-Goulphar, Belle-Ile, 1887, oil on canvas, 107 x 91.6 cm, Sydney, Art Gallery of New South Wales
18. Camille Pissarro, Vue sur la côte des Mathurins, Pontoise, 1873, oil on canvas, 61 x 73 cm, Paris, Musée d’Orsay
19. Camille Pissarro, Chemin montant, rue de la Côte-de-Jalet, 1875, oil on canvas, 54 x 65.7 cm, New York, Brooklyn Museum
21. Paul Cézanne, Landscape near Paris, 1876, oil on canvas, 50.2 x 60 cm, Washington, National Gallery of Art
22. Claude Monet, Lavacourt under Snow, 1878-81, oil on canvas, 59.7 x 80.6 cm, London, National Gallery
23. Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Regatta at Argenteuil, 1871, oil on canvas, 32.4 x 45.7 cm, Washington, National Gallery of Art
24. Paul Cézanne, Gardanne, 1885-6, oil on canvas, 80 x 64.1 cm, New York, Metropolitan Museum of Art
*25. Paul Cézanne, Houses in Provence: The Riaux Valley near L’Estaque, 1883, oil on canvas, 65 x 81.3 cm, Washington, National Gallery of Art
26. Paul Cézanne, Landscape from Jas de Bouffan, 1879, oil on canvas, 60 x 70 cm, Oslo, National Museum of Art
*27. Pierre-Auguste Renoir, The Skiff, 1875, oil on canvas, 71 x 92 cm, London, National Gallery
28. Claude Monet, Gare St Lazare, 1877, oil on canvas, 54.3 x 73.6 cm, London, National Gallery
29. Claude Monet, Bathers at La Grenouillère, 1869, oil on canvas, 73 x 92 cm, London, National Gallery
30. Pierre-Auguste Renoir, La Grenouillère, 1869, oil on canvas, 65.1 x 92 cm, Winterthur, Oskar Reinhart Collection
31. Alfred Sisley, The Seine at Bougival 1873, oil on canvas 46 x 65 cm, Paris, Musee d’Orsay
32. Berthe Morisot, The Wet Nurse Angèle Feeding Julie Manet, 1881, oil on canvas, 50 x 61 cm, private collection
33. Berthe Morisot, Eugène Manet and his Daughter in the Garden, 1883, oil on canvas, 60 x 73 cm, Private Collection
34. Berthe Morisot, Summer’s Day, 1879, oil on canvas, 45.7 x 75.2 cm, London, National Gallery
35. Berthe Morisot, Eugène Manet and his Daughter at Bougival, 1881, oil on canvas, 73 x 92 cm, private collection
*36. Berthe Morisot, Girl in a Boat with Geese, 1889, oil on canvas, 65.4 x 54.6 cm, Washington, National Gallery of Art
37. Claude Monet, Woman with a Parasol, 1875, oil on canvas, 100 x 81 cm, Washington, National Gallery of Art
*38. Claude Monet, The Manneporte, Etretat, 1883, oil on canvas, 65.4 x 81 cm, New York, Metropolitan Museum of Art
39. August Renoir, In the Woods, 1880, oil on canvas, 55.8 x 46.3 cm, Tokyo, National Museum of Western Art
40. Claude Monet, Parc Monceau, 1878, oil on canvas, 72.7 x 52.3 cm, New York, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
41. Alfred Sisley, Boulevard Héloïse, Argenteuil, 1872, oil on canvas, 39.5 x 59.6 cm, Washington, National Gallery of Art

*42. Alfred Sisley, Fog, Voisins, 1874, oil on canvas, 65 x 50 cm, Paris, Musée d’Orsay

43. Pierre-August Renoir, Monet working in his Garden at Argenteuil, 1873, Hartford, Wadsworth Atheneum

44. Claude Monet, The Artist’s Garden at Argenteuil, 1873, oil on canvas, 61 x 82.5 cm, Washington, National Gallery of Art

45. Claude Monet, Impression, soleil levant, 1872, oil on canvas, 48 x 63 cm, Paris, Musée Marmottan

46. Claude Monet, Sunrise (Marine), 1873, oil on canvas, 49 x 60 cm, Los Angeles, J. Getty Museum

Reference:


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