

Revised Sept. 2011

FAMOUS ARTISTS SERIES: CLAUDE MONET (1840-1926)
Water Lilies 1906

Supplies Needed:

- * Laminated presentation pictures (14 total)
- * Project sample
- * Oil pastels in art box
- * Black construction paper to matt projects
- * Copy of haystacks, one per student
- * ***The Life & Work of Claude Monet***, Connolly available for Reference from the supply box
- * Drawing paper, two ½ sheets per student from the supply box
- * Students will need their pencil for project tracing

Reference Books

Getting To Know the World's Greatest Artists: Monet, M. Venezia

Monet, the Masterworks J.P. Crespelle

Monet, M. Howard

Monet, A. Martini

Claude Monet Sunshine & Waterlilies, Steven Packard Juvenile

Monet at Giverny, Claire Joyes

Monet on the Normandy Coast, Robert Herbert

Monet, Nature in Art John House

Monet, Gordon & Forge

AHEAD OF TIME NOTE: Make enough photocopies of the double haystack image and the "Famous Artist Series" master note home for each student. In addition, you will need one drawing paper sheet per student.

Presentation:

Present laminated picture #1 of Monet

Today we are going to talk about a famous French artist named Claude Monet (*pronounce "Clohd Moh-nay"*). Claude Monet was born in Paris in 1840. He lived until he was 86 years old. He began painting at the age of 19 and never stopped until his death. That means he painted for 67 years! Even as a young boy, Monet was a wonderful artist. When he was only 16, he would draw caricatures of different people in town. Everyone really enjoyed these pictures and even began to pay Monet for them.

Present laminate #2 of Monet's caricatures. A "caricature" is a portrait of a person with exaggerated, cartoon-like features. Were these pictures realistic or from Claude's imagination?

When he was 17, Monet was introduced to an artist named Boudin. He talked Monet into learning to paint. But most important of all, he believed artists should paint outside. He thought artists could capture the true beauty of nature if they were right in the middle of it. This was a very modern idea 150 years ago. Up until this time, artists had always painted indoors in studios. The artists used dark, drab colors and painted very formal pictures of people or historical events. Once Monet began to work outside, he fell in love with painting. He began to paint all of the time.

Present laminate #3 of Monet painting outside. Point out the fact that Monet is right in the garden. The sun might be shining on his subjects and they would be much more vivid and bright. Ask the students how they would feel painting outside as opposed to painting them in a room inside.

Present laminated picture #4 of a famous portrait. Talk about the feeling you get when you look at this painting. Is it light and happy? Is it dark and serious?

When Monet was 18 years old, he went to Paris to attend art school. He didn't like the school at all because they had too many rules of *how* to paint and *what* to paint.

So, instead of going to the art school, Claude worked with a group of artists and poets who shared his love for nature and painting. They would talk for hours at night sharing ideas. Monet met and painted with many other artists including Eduard Manet and Pierre August Renoir who became his good friends and greatly influenced his work.

These artists developed a new painting style using loose brushstrokes and bright colors. They were fascinated with the way light affected different things. Because they were painting outdoors, the artists tried to capture the feeling of wind, the smell of grass and the heat of the sun in their pictures. Here is one of Monet's pictures of some women in a garden on a sunny day.

Present laminate #5, "Women in the Garden", 1866-67.

- **Monet loved to capture the light on different outdoor scenes. Compare areas of sunlight and shade on the ground and on the girl's dresses.**
- **Look at the sun reflecting on their dresses.**

- ***You almost feel like you are there: Do you “feel” the heat of the sun? The leaves are shimmering in the sunlight, blowing in the wind.***
- ***Notice the beautiful, bright colors that he uses.***

Since outdoor light is always changing throughout the day, Monet learned to work quickly (before the shadows moved!). He could finish an entire painting in a couple of hours. He painted with many small brushstrokes and didn't blend them together. When you look at his paintings up close, they look very messy, but as you step away, the small brushstrokes create a beautiful picture.

Present laminate #6 “The Cliff Walk, Pourville” 1882. Look closely at the small, unblended brushstrokes he used. As you step back, a beautiful scene comes into focus. (Hold laminate close to students and slowly pull it back further away from them.) Does it become more clear. Point out the sunlight and shadows. Can you “see” the wind?

Monet and his friends decided they wanted everyone to see their new style of artwork. He and six of his artist friends organized a show of their paintings (Monet-Renoir-Pissaro-Sisley-Degas-Cezanne-Morisot) in 1874. They caused quite a stir in the Parisian art world because their paintings were so different. People had never seen pictures with such brilliant colors. They said the pictures didn't look finished.

An art critic called the new group of painters “Impressionists” because their pictures gave the sensation of looking at a scene for one moment in time.

Lucky for us, Monet and the other *Impressionist* painters continued to paint and exhibit their works together (8 exhibits). Over time, their art became more and more well known and well liked. Artists from all over the world began to study and imitate their methods of showing color and light in their paintings.

Monet continued painting for the rest of his life. He loved to paint and would do almost anything to paint a picture of something he was interested in.

Present laminated picture #7 of The Manneporte, Etretat.

To paint this picture, Monet would climb down a huge cliff with all of his paints and equipment so he could be right in front of the rocks. Many times his paintings were washed away by the waves. Sometimes he actually had to tie them down.

Present laminated picture #8 of a winter scene.

To paint this picture, Monet would stand out in the freezing weather for hours with a hat and boots on.

Present laminated picture #9 of Monet painting from a boat

Sometimes he would take all of his supplies and paint pictures from a boat.

Present laminates #10 & 11 of haystacks.

Monet also was very interested in the effects of light and weather changes on a scene. He would paint the same scene over and over again at different times of the day and different times of the year. Even if it was raining or snowing, he would still sit outdoors for hours making his paintings. He made 30 paintings of these haystacks showing different seasons at different times of the day.

Present laminated pictures #12 & 13 of the water lilies and the framed water lily picture from the school.

His most famous paintings are of the water lily ponds at his home. He worked on these paintings for the last 10 years of his life. Some of the paintings are 6 ½ feet high by 42 feet long!! That would make his paintings almost twice as wide as this classroom. They make you feel like you are actually in the pond.

Present laminated picture #14 of Monet standing by his water lily paintings.

Monet painted beautiful pictures that changed the world of art forever.

Art PROJECT

Today we are going to color haystacks in two different types of weather just like Claude Monet. Present laminates 10 & 11 of "Grainstacks".

- **Distribute boxes of pastels (students will need to share and 1 copy of haystack per student as well as photo copy of the double haystacks sheet and one drawing paper sheet per student.**

Students will need to trace the two images of the haystacks onto their drawing paper (you need the heavier paper due to the oil pastels). Have them place the photo copy under the drawing paper and trace the outline. If they are struggling, they can place

the photo copy OVER the drawing paper, and, pressing firmly, trace the haystack images. This will result in an indentation on the drawing paper that they can then draw over.

- We will be coloring with oil pastels, which are similar to the oil paints that the *Impressionists* used. When you use the oil pastels, try not to shade in whole areas with solid color, instead try to apply small strokes and layer the colors just like Claude Monet. Demonstrate applying the small strokes (1/2") on a haystack.
- Haystack #1: Winter day
Let's make the first haystack picture look like a winter day: cold, windy, cloudy, snowy. What colors remind you of a winter day? (Cool Colors: white, blue, gray, black, purple) Please take these colors out of your box and use them to color the first haystack. Remember to apply the colors with small strokes!
- Haystack #2: Summer day
Let's make the second haystack picture look like a summer day: hot, humid, sunny. What colors remind you of a summer day? (Warm Colors: yellow, orange, red, pink, peach, yellow-green) Please take these colors out of your box and use them to color the second haystack. Remember to apply the colors with small strokes!
- Have students sign the front of their artwork in the oil pastels.
- Mat both pictures together on one piece of black construction paper.

**PLEASE LEAVE AT LEAST FIVE MINUTES AT THE
END OF THE PRESENTATION FOR THE STUDENTS
TO PRESENT THEIR WORK.**

FAMOUS ARTISTS SERIES

Monet

Today in class a volunteer parent presented the works of French Impressionist artist Claude Monet to your child's class. They learned about his life and works. They made a water lily art project in the style of his work.

The Art Institute of Chicago owns many works by Monet. Perhaps most enchanting are his series of water lilies. In addition, there are a number of enjoyable children's books about Monet:

Once Upon A Lily Pad by J. Sweeney

Katie Meets the Impressionists by Mayhew

Molly Meets Mona and Friends by Minnerly

A Blue Butterfly: A Story about Claude Monet by B. LeTord

Sincerely yours,

Art Volunteer