

Welcome students to another module of the paper History of Western Art and Culture. Today, we are going to be discussing Module Five. The name of the module is Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Art. We are going to discuss Impressionism and Claude Monet and Post-Impressionism and Van Gogh.

What is the learning outcome of this module? This module will enable the students to identify and understand Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Art. Students will also be able to understand the contribution of Claude Monet to Impressionist art. We will be also looking at and we will be able to understand the contribution of Van Gogh to Post-Impressionist Art.

What is Impressionism? Impressionism is a 19th century art movement that originated with a group of Paris based artists. It is characterized by the use of small, thin, yet visible brushstrokes and focused on accurate depiction of light and its changing qualities. They use ordinary subject matter and include movement as an important part of human experience. The name of the style Impressionism is derived from the title of a painting of a work of Claude Monet that is Impression 'Soleil Levant' which means impression or sunrise. Early Impressionists did not follow the rules of academic painting that had been followed earlier. They created the picture from freely brushed colors that became more important than the lines and contours. It also painted realistic scenes of modern life, and they often painted outside instead of a studio so that they could capture the impression, the movement in a better manner. They found that they could capture the momentary and transient effects of sunlight by painting outdoors or something that we call us an plein air. They could paint overall visual effects instead of minute details. Post-Impressionism, extended impressionism, but at the same time they rejected some of its limitations. They emphasize more on geometric forms. They use unnatural or arbitrary color. Vincent van Gogh used color and vibrant swirling brushstrokes to convey his feelings and his state of mind.

Let us begin with the first painter that is Claude Monet. Claude Monet was a French painter, founder of French Impressionist painting. The term impressionism as we've already discussed earlier is derived from the title of his painting 'Impression'. The painting was exhibited in 1874 in his first independent exhibitions by Monet and his associates. Monet's ambition of documenting the French countryside led him to adopt a method of painting the same scene many times in order to capture the changing effect of light and the passing seasons. Important to the Impressionist painters was understanding the effect of light on the local color of objects and effects of color with each other. He began to think in terms of colors and shapes rather than scenes and objects. A series of paintings had Monet looking at smoke and steam and the way that they affected color visibility. That is, it would make it opaque with more smoke, less smoke or it will make it opaque or translucent. He was to further use this study in the painting of the effects of mist and rain on the landscape so as to capture the impression, the momentary impression of that particular moment.

What is impressionism? Capturing the transient effect of light, the moment. The Impressionist paintings were mostly done outside. Post-Impressionism is a French art movement that developed roughly between 1886 and 1905. Post-Impressionism emerged as a reaction against Impressionism, and the concern that the Impressionist painters had for natural depiction of light and color, that impressionists wanted to depict things as they were, they wanted to naturally depict the light and color which Post-Impressionists felt that they should not be doing. The Post-Impressionists were not happy with the loss of structure in Impressionist paintings because they were not following structure lines, contours, etc. along with the choice of subject matter of the paintings. The Post-Impressionism movement was led by Paul Cezanne., He is known as the father of Post-Impressionism. Along with him there were Paul Gauguin, Vincent van

Gogh, and Georges Sheurat. The term Post-Impressionism was used in 1906 and again in 1910 by Roger Fry in the title of an exhibition of modern French painters: Manet and Post-Impressionists.

Vincent William Mango was a Dutch Post-Impressionist painter. In just over a decade, he created approximately 2000 artworks, including around 860 oil paintings, most of which date from the last two years of his life. His paintings, his artwork include landscapes, still life portraits and self portraits.

They are characterized by bold colors and dramatic, impulsive and expressive brushwork that contributed to the foundation of modern art. Vincent Van Gogh drew as a child. As a young man who worked as an art dealer and he was often traveling. In 1886 he moved to Paris, where he met Emile Bernard and Paul Gauggin, who were very reacting against the Impressionists. His paintings grew brighter in color as it developed a style that became fully realized during his stay in France.

During this period, he brought up the subject matter to include a series of olive trees, wheatfields, sunflowers, and others. Vincent Van Gogh was unsuccessful during his lifetime and was considered a madman and a failure. He became famous after his death. Today, Van Gogh's works are among the world's most expensive paintings to have ever sold, and his legacy is honored by a museum in his name, The Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. This is one of the paintings of Vincent van Gogh, which we see.

We can see the vibrant colors that are used or the blue, the yellow that is used, their vibrant colors. This is one of the Post-Impressionist paintings. In this module we have learned about Van Gogh, Claude Monet, about Impressionist Art and Post-Impressionist art. These are some of the references that you can refer to for further reading. At the end of this module we were able to understand Impressionist Art, Contribution of painters like Claude Monet to Impressionist Art. We have also understood post Impressionist art as reactive to Impressionist art and how it built up a different style of painting, along with painters like Van Gogh. So we see a different style of painting emerging. Unlike the academic paintings of earlier times that focused on colors, contours now the focus had shifted towards capturing the impression of that particular moment, of capturing the transitory effect of light on certain things.

So that was Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art, along with Claude Monet and Van Gogh. Thank you.