claude monet

ARTIST FACT SHEET

CLAUDE MONET was born in Paris, France, in 1840. Monet is best known as the leader of the Impressionists, a group of painters who painted what they saw and felt, rather than painting something exactly the way it looked. When Monet was young, he lived with his family near the sea. He was very good at drawing funny pictures of people called caricatures. Monet liked getting paid for his caricatures and decided to move to Paris and study art. Monet had many artist friends, who are also famous artists. Sometimes Monet and Renoir would paint the same scene at the same time. He and his friends were some of the first painters to paint outside. In french, this is called "*en plain air*". In order to become a famous artist in Paris, you had to have your paintings in a show at a exhibition at the 'Salon'. Monet tried many times to get into this show, but was rejected. Monet and his artist friends Degas, Renoir, Pissaro, and Manet held their own exhibition and Impressionism became an important and well loved art movement.

Monet used short brush strokes and splashes of pretty colors. His paintings were filled with light and reflections. Many of Monet's paintings are of water. Boats, oceans, ponds, and lakes were some of his favoirte subjects. Monet painted anything from simple haystacks to grand cathedrals, but he is best known for his lovely garden paintings of water flowers and trees.

Monet's paintings are beautiful, but he was not always pleased with them. Sometimes he burned them! Thankfully, most of his paintings have survived to become the most popular and best loved works of all the Impressionists. Claude Monet and the Impressionists led the way to moderism in art history. Monet's masterpieces can be viewed in museums all around the world.

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