

Claude Monet

👤 Who Was Claude Monet?

Oscar-Claude Monet was a famous French artist who **Painted beautiful scenes of nature** like gardens, water lilies, and the sea.

He helped start a new style of painting called **Impressionism**, where artists used **light and colour** to show how something *felt* instead of painting it exactly as it looked.



😊 Childhood

- He was born on **November 14, 1840**, in **Paris, France**.
- His **father, Adolphe Monet**, ran a family grocery and ship-supply business in Le Havre.
- His **mother, Louise-Justine Aubrée Monet**, was a **singer** who supported Claude's artistic interests.
- After his mother died when he was 16, Claude moved in with his aunt, who also encouraged his art.
- As a child, he loved to **draw funny pictures (caricatures)** of people.
- He grew up near the sea in **Le Havre**, where he watched ships and water every day.

🎓 Education

- Monet went to **secondary school (Collège Secondaire des Arts)** in **Le Havre**, where he took art classes.
- He received his first drawing lessons from **Jacques-François Ochard**, a former student of Jacques-Louis David.
- He studied at the **Académie Suisse** in Paris and later joined the **École des Beaux-Arts** briefly, though he disliked their strict, traditional methods.

- He was mentored by **Eugène Boudin**, who taught him to paint outdoors (“en plein air”), which became a key part of Impressionism.
- At 15, he was already selling his caricatures for pocket money.
- He joined the army but left because he got sick, then went back to studying art seriously.

Career

- **Impressionism was born** from his painting *Impression, Sunrise* (1872). The name was originally used as a joke by a critic!
- He painted the **same subject many times**—like haystacks or the Rouen Cathedral—to show how it looked in different lights and seasons.
- He loved painting **outdoors (en plein air)** with quick brushstrokes and bright colors.
- He formed an art group with friends like Renoir and Pissarro to display their work outside official galleries.
- Monet faced **money troubles early in his career**, but by the 1880s, his art became popular and he began to make a good living.
- In his later years, Monet designed and planted a **huge flower garden and lily pond** in Giverny. These became the subjects of some of his most famous works.

Quotes from Monet

- “I must have flowers, always, and always.”
- “Colour is my day-long obsession, joy and torment.”
- “I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers.”
- “Everyone discusses my art and pretends to understand, as if it were necessary to understand, when it is simply necessary to love.”



Artwork

Impression, Sunrise (1872)



Water Lilies a series of 250 different paintings(1897–1926)



The Japanese Bridge

Woman with a Parasol (1875)

