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Claude Monet: The Painter of Light and Color



Claude Monet was one of the most important painters in history. He was born on November 14, 1840, in Paris, France. As a child, Monet loved drawing. He often sketched pictures of people and places around him. However, his father wanted him to work in the family grocery business. But Monet had a different dream—he wanted to be an artist.

When Monet was a young man, he went to art school. There, he met other artists who, like him, wanted to paint in a new way. At the time, most painters created very detailed and realistic paintings. But Monet and his friends wanted to paint quickly and capture how light and color changed throughout the day. They often painted outside instead of in a studio.

Monet helped create a new art style called Impressionism. This style used short, quick brushstrokes and bright colors to show movement and light. One of his most famous paintings, *Impression, Sunrise*, gave Impressionism its name. However, when he first showed his paintings, many people did not like them. They thought the paintings looked messy and unfinished. Critics made fun of Monet and his friends, but they continued painting in their own style.

Monet loved painting nature. He painted water lilies, gardens, and bridges. He also created paintings of famous places, such as the Houses of Parliament in London and the Cathedral of Rouen at different times of the day. He was fascinated by how light could change the way something looked.

Even though Monet became famous, he faced challenges. He sometimes struggled with money problems, and later in life, he had trouble seeing because of an eye disease. But he never stopped painting. He continued to create beautiful works of art until he passed away on December 5, 1926.

Today, Monet's paintings are loved all over the world. His work changed the way people thought about art, and Impressionism became one of the most popular styles of painting. Because of his creativity and dedication, Monet is remembered as one of the greatest artists of all time.