



Chronology

1840

Birth of Oscar Claude Monet in Paris, on 14th of November.

1845

The Monet family moves to Le Havre in Normandy.

1851

Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte (1808-1873) mounts a coup d'État on 2nd of December. Monet attends local *collège* (middle school), and studies drawing with Jacques-François Ochart (1800-1870), the curator of the Musée du Havre.

1856-1858

Early success for Monet as a caricaturist. He meets Eugène Boudin (1824-1898) who introduces him to painting out of doors (*plein air*): 'Like the sudden rending of a veil, I had understood what painting could be.'¹

¹ François Thiébaud-Sisson, 'Claude Monet, les années d'épreuves,' in *Le Temps*, 26 November 1900, p. 3.

1859

Moves to Paris.

1860

Enrols at the Académie Suisse, where he meets Camille Pissarro (1830-1903).

1861

Begins his military service in Algeria but is suspended one year later, suffering from typhoid.

1862

Convalescence in Normandy, where he meets Dutch landscape painter Johan Barthold Jongkind (1819-1891).

1862-1863

Attends the Paris studio of painter Charles Gleyre (1806-1874), where he meets Frédéric Bazille (1841-1870), Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841-1919) and Alfred Sisley (1839-1899), the founding members of the Impressionist group.

1863

Admires the highly controversial painting *Déjeuner sur l'herbe* (1863, Musée d'Orsay, Paris) by Édouard Manet (1832-1883) at the Salon des Refusés. The picture established a 'new modernity' in art, inspiring a generation of painters, including Monet.

1865-1866

Monet's Salon début and early success, with two landscapes. The following year, exhibits a full-length portrait of *Camille*, or *Woman in a Green Dress* (1866, Kunsthalle, Bremen). The model is his companion Camille Doncieux (1847-1879).

1867

Suffering extreme financial hardship, Monet returns to live with his family in Normandy. Camille gives birth to their first child, named Jean (1867-1914).

1869

Moves to Bougival, where he paints with Renoir at La Grenouillère.

1870

Marries Camille on 28th June. Outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war on 19th of July. Monet flees to London, where he meets the gallerist Paul Durand-Ruel (1831-1922), who becomes his official dealer.

1871

Following the collapse of the Paris Commune, Monet and his family return to France via Holland, where the colourful tulip fields fascinate him. The family moves to Argenteuil towards the end of the year.

1872-1874

Monet paints his most famous canvas, *Impression, Sunrise* (1872-1873, Musée Marmottan Monet, Paris), depicting a view over the port at Le Havre. In 1874,

the picture features in the first Impressionist exhibition, held in Paris under the auspices of the newly formed '*Société anonyme coopérative d'artistes-peintres, sculpteurs, graveurs, etc.*' (the exhibition runs from 15th of April to 15th of May). Louis Leroy, a journalist writing in the satirical newspaper *Le Charivari* publishes an article entitled 'The Impressionists' Exhibition' on 25 April 1874, giving the nascent movement its name. Seven more Impressionist exhibitions held between 1876 and 1886.

1875

Monet, Renoir, Sisley and Berthe Morisot (1841-1895) organise a public sale of their work at Hôtel Drouot in Paris.

1876

Monet takes part in the second Impressionist exhibition. The collector Ernest Hoschedé (1838-1891) and his wife Alice (1844-1911) commission decorative panels for their château in Montgeron.

1877

Begins a series of views of the Gare Saint-Lazare in Paris, some of which feature in the third Impressionist exhibition.

1878

Forced to leave Argentueil, settles briefly in Paris, where his second son Michel (1878-1966) is born, then moves to Vétheuil with the Hoschedé family.

1879

Shows twenty-nine works at the fourth Impressionist exhibition. Camille dies on 5 September, at the age of thirty-two. Alice Hoschedé becomes the artist's new companion.

1880

Holds his first solo exhibition on 7th of June, at the Paris offices of the review *La Vie Moderne*.

1881

Turns his back on the Salon for good. Moves to Poissy in December, with Alice, his two sons, and Alice's six children.

1882

Takes part in the seventh Impressionist exhibition.

1883

Second solo exhibition, at Galerie Durand-Ruel. At the end of April, rents a house in Le Pressoir, a hamlet near Giverny, 80 km from Paris, and moves there with Alice and their children. In December, accompanies Renoir on a journey along the Mediterranean coast, from Marseille to Genoa. The pair meets Paul Cézanne in Aix-en-Provence.

1884

Early in the year, travels alone to the Italian Riviera to paint views of Bordighera. Paints his first *Haystacks* in the autumn.

1886

Monet does not take part in the eighth and last Impressionist exhibition. In September, travels to Belle-Île-en-Mer, off the southern coast of Brittany, where he meets the art critic Gustave Geffroy (1855-1926). Geffroy becomes one of his closest friends and, ultimately, Monet's biographer.

1887

Shows a number of paintings at the sixth annual international art exhibition held at Galerie Georges Petit in Paris, including *Vétheuil in the Fog* (1879, Musée Marmottan Monet, Paris).

1889

Visits Fresselines in the Creuse Valley, with Gustave Geffroy. Galerie Georges Petit

organises a joint exhibition of works by Monet and Rodin to coincide with the Paris Exposition Universelle, held from 5 May to 31 October 1889. Gustave Eiffel's tower is erected on the Champs-de-Mars, as the symbol of the event.

1890

Buys the property at Giverny.

1891

In May, shows fifteen canvases from the *Haystacks* series, together with floral subjects, at Galerie Durand-Ruel. Begins work on the *Poplars* series during the summer months.

1892

Builds greenhouses on his property at Giverny, and visits Rouen, where he begins work on the *Cathedrals* series, to be continued the following year. He and Alice are married on July 16.

1893

Acquires a new plot of land, begins work on the water garden, digging a water lily pond.

1895

Paints his first pictures of the water garden. At the beginning of the year, he paints a number of landscapes in Norway, on a holiday with Jacques Hoschedé (1869-1941).

1896

Begins his series *Mornings on the Seine*.

1897

Builds a new studio in Giverny.

1899

Visits London, returning the following year, and again in 1901. Begins a series devoted to the *Water Lily Pond*.

1900

The Exposition Universelle in Paris celebrates the achievements of the nineteenth century (15 April to 12 November). Galerie Durand-Ruel organises an exhibition of ten paintings from Monet's *Water Lily Pond* series.

1901

On May 10, Monet buys a new plot of land, to extend the water lily pond. On 13th of November, the Mairie in Giverny grants permission to divert an arm of the river Epte (on public land), to feed the pond.

1902

Work continues to expand the pond. The American painter Mary Cassatt records that Monet has begun work on a series of *Waterscapes*.

1908

Monet's sight is failing. He travels to Venice with Alice, and works on the *Water Lilies* series in his studio.

1909

Durand-Ruel mounts a successful exhibition entitled *Les Nymphéas, Séries de paysages d'eau par Claude Monet* ('Water Lilies: A series of waterscapes by Claude Monet').

1911

Alice dies, on 19 May.

1912

Monet is diagnosed with cataracts on both eyes.

1914

Outbreak of the Great War. Georges Clemenceau encourages Monet to paint an ensemble of large panels inspired by the *Water Lily Pond*. Monet builds a special studio to house the monumental canvases.

1918

Armistice is signed on 11th of November. On 18th of November, Clemenceau (now president of the Conseil d'Etat) and Geffroy visit Monet in Giverny, to choose which water lily paintings will be donated to the French State. Monet begins the *Japanese Bridge* series.

1922

The official act donating the twenty-two *Grandes Décorations* to the French State is signed on 12 April.

1923

Monet undergoes three cataract operations.

1926

Dies on 5th of December, aged eighty-six.

1927

On 17th of May, the Musée de l'Orangerie in Paris inaugurates the permanent installation of Monet's *Grandes Décorations des Nymphéas*.

1966

Bequest of Michel Monet's private family collection to the Musée Marmottan.