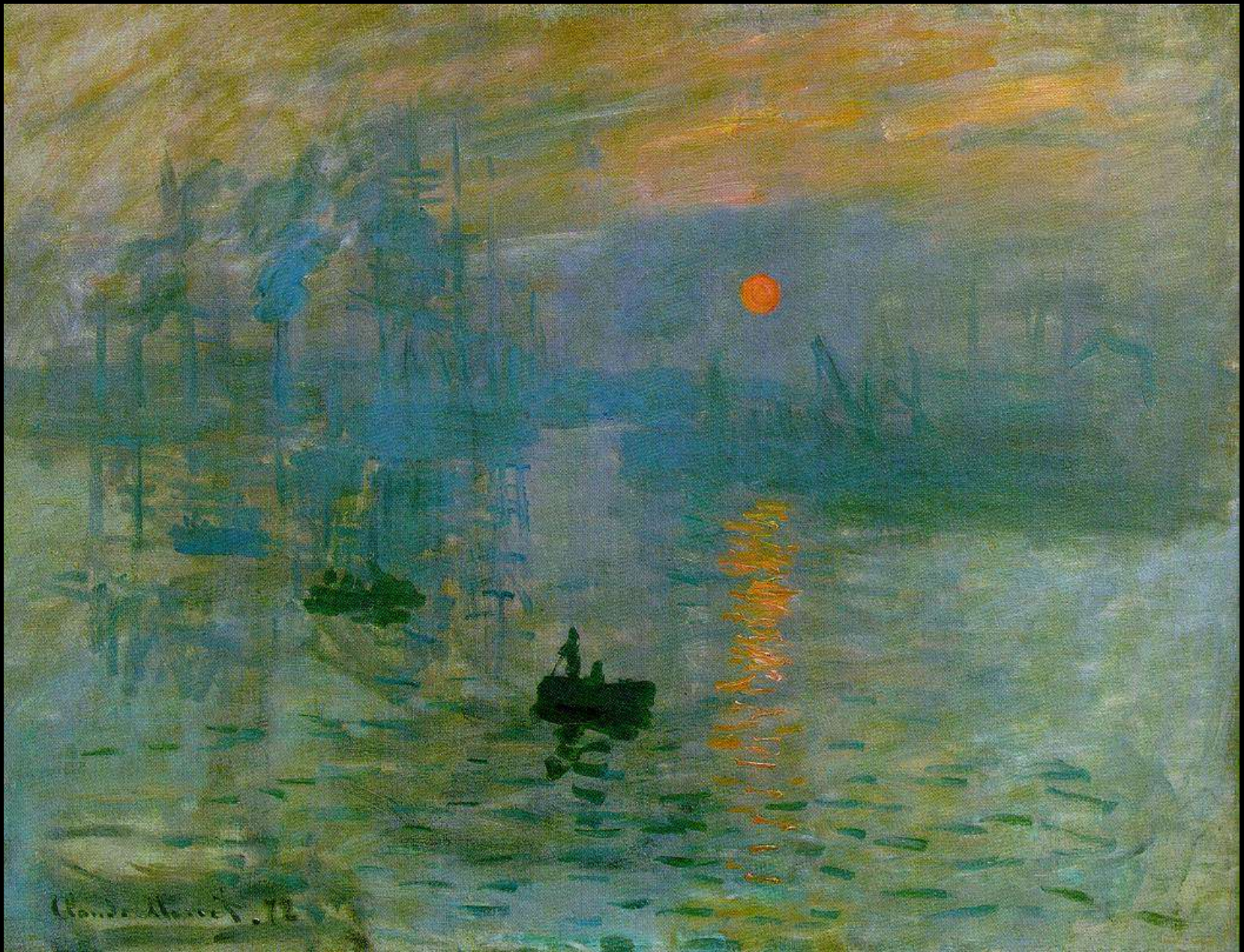


The background is a painting of a pond. The water is dark, almost black, with vertical brushstrokes of deep blue and purple. Scattered across the surface are numerous lily pads in various shades of green, yellow, and brown. Several flowers in shades of red, pink, and orange are also visible. The overall style is impressionistic, with a focus on color and light rather than fine detail.

# *Impressionism*

` **Impressionism** was a **19th century** art movement that began as a loose association of Paris based artists, who began exhibiting their art publicly in the 1860's. The name of the movement is derived from the title of a **Claude Monet** painting, called **Impression, Sunrise**



Impression - Sunrise

**Impressionist** artists felt the new technology of **Photography** was ruining the art of painting. They felt the need to create a new style of painting in which accurate rendering of the subject was not the main focus.

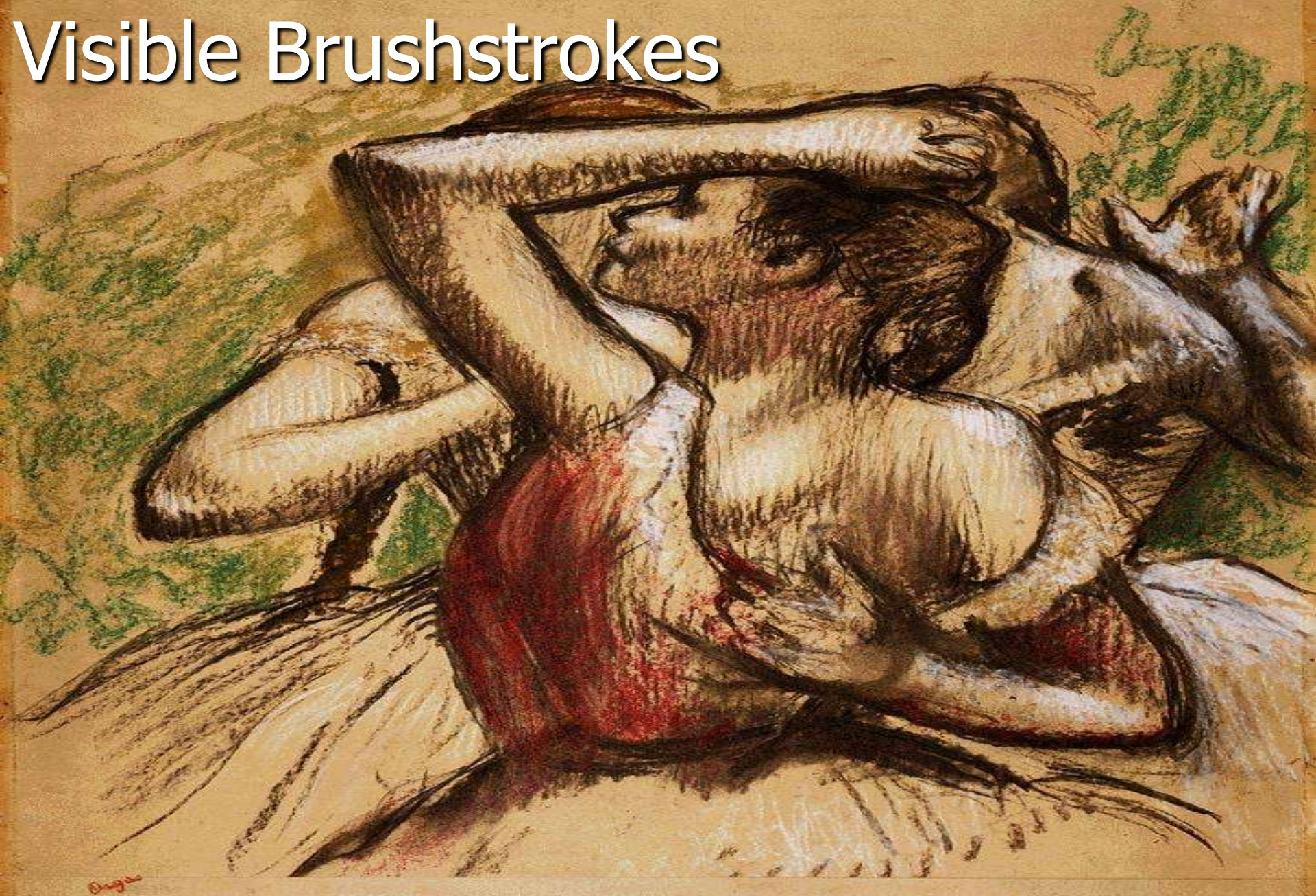
The **Impressionists** changed the approach to painting, **by recreating the sensation in the eye that views the subject**, rather than recreating the subject.

The public, at first hated the paintings, then gradually came to believe that the **Impressionists** had captured a fresh and original vision. The art critics of that time, continued to disapprove calling the paintings unfinished sketches.

# Characteristics of Impressionist painting include:

- Visible brushstrokes
- Light Colors
- Emphasis on Light and the changing qualities of it
- Ordinary Subject Matter
- Unusual Visual Angles
- Open Compositions

# Visible Brushstrokes

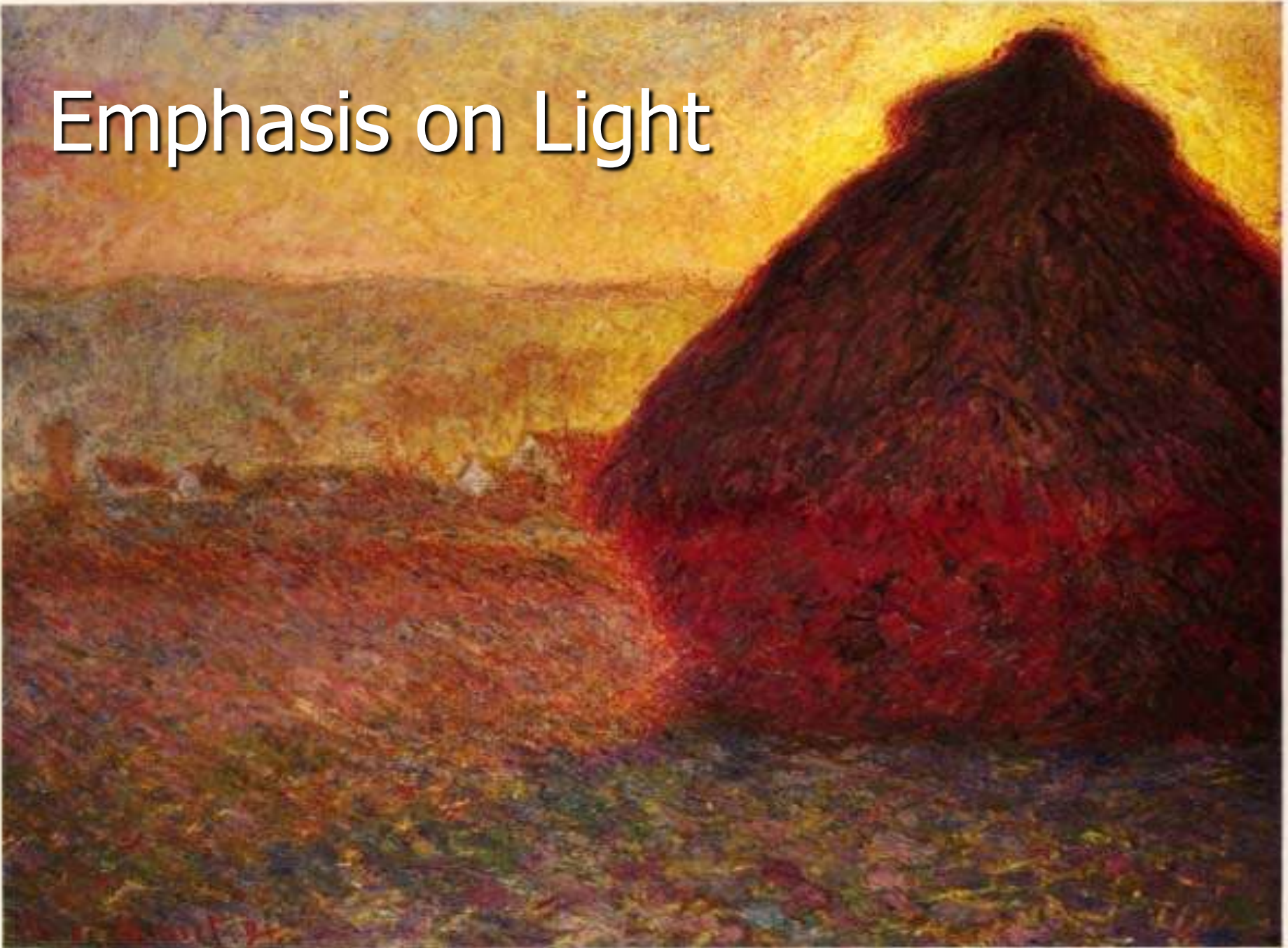




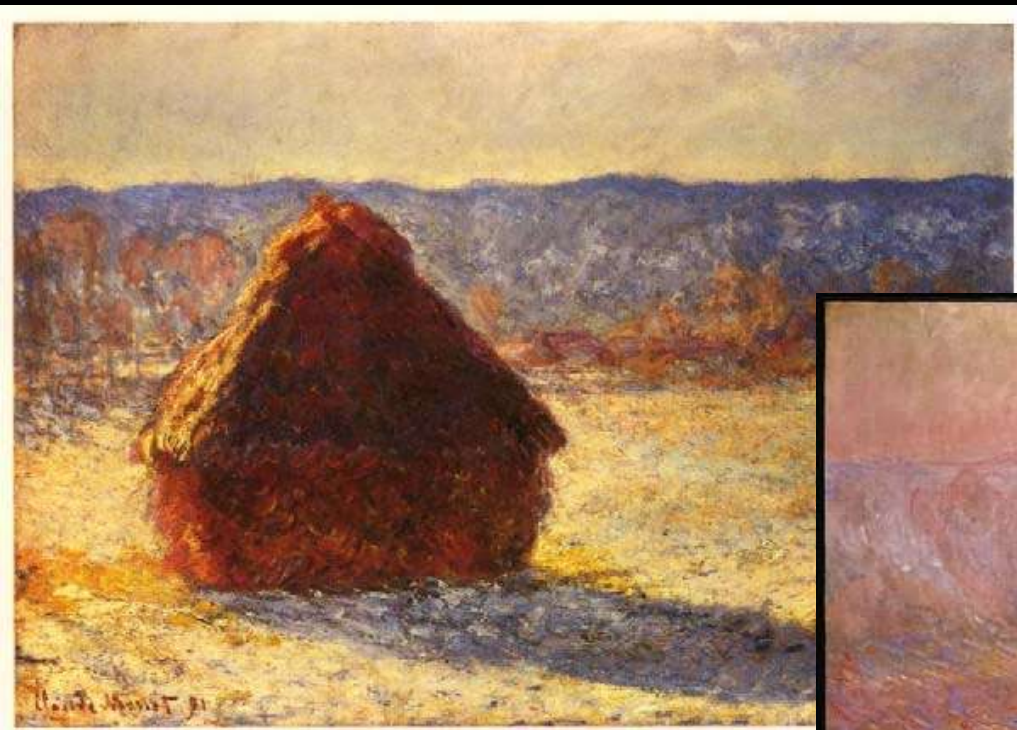
# Light Colors



# Emphasis on Light



# The Changing Qualities of Light



Haystack - Morning

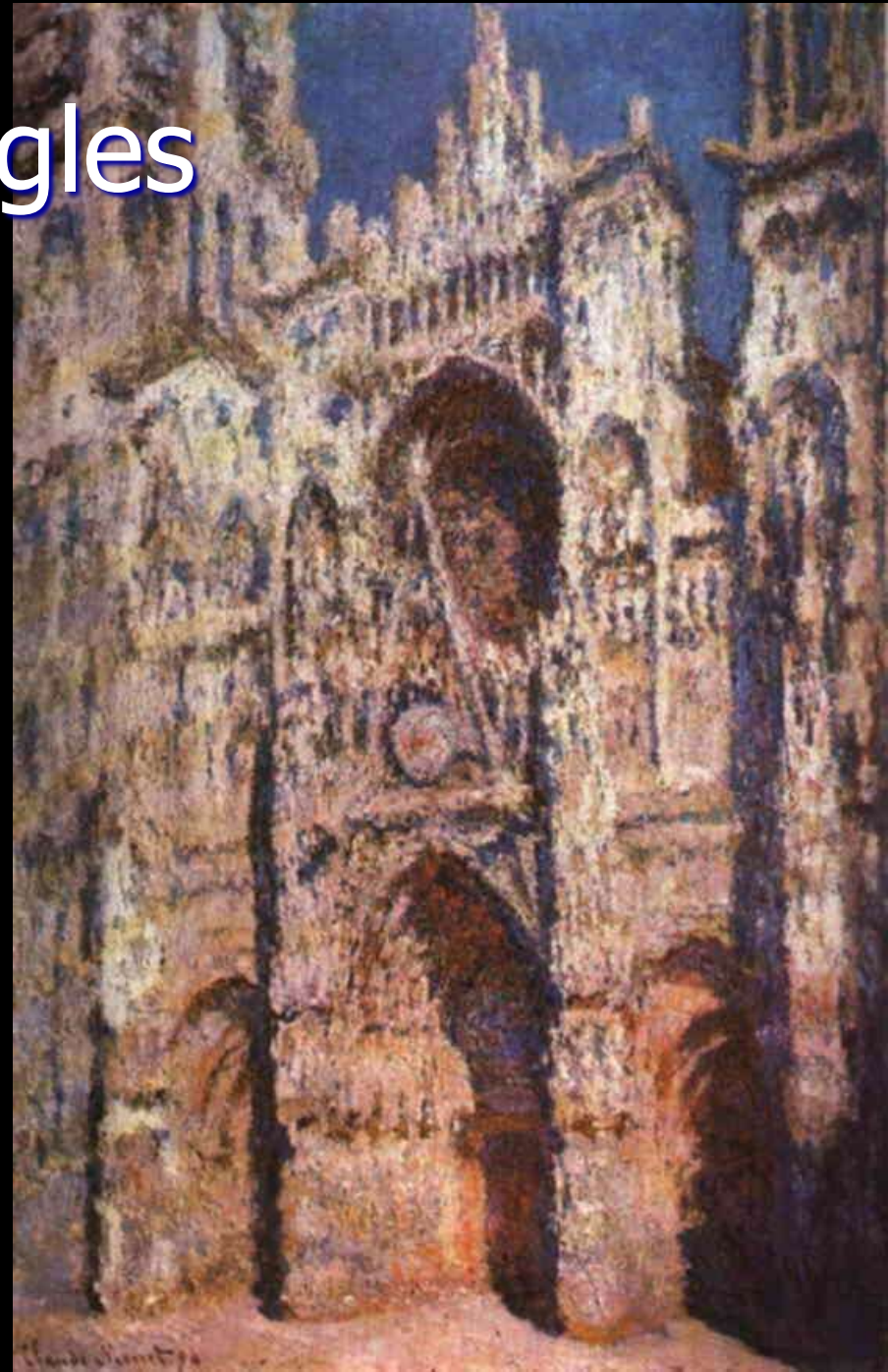


Haystack - Mist

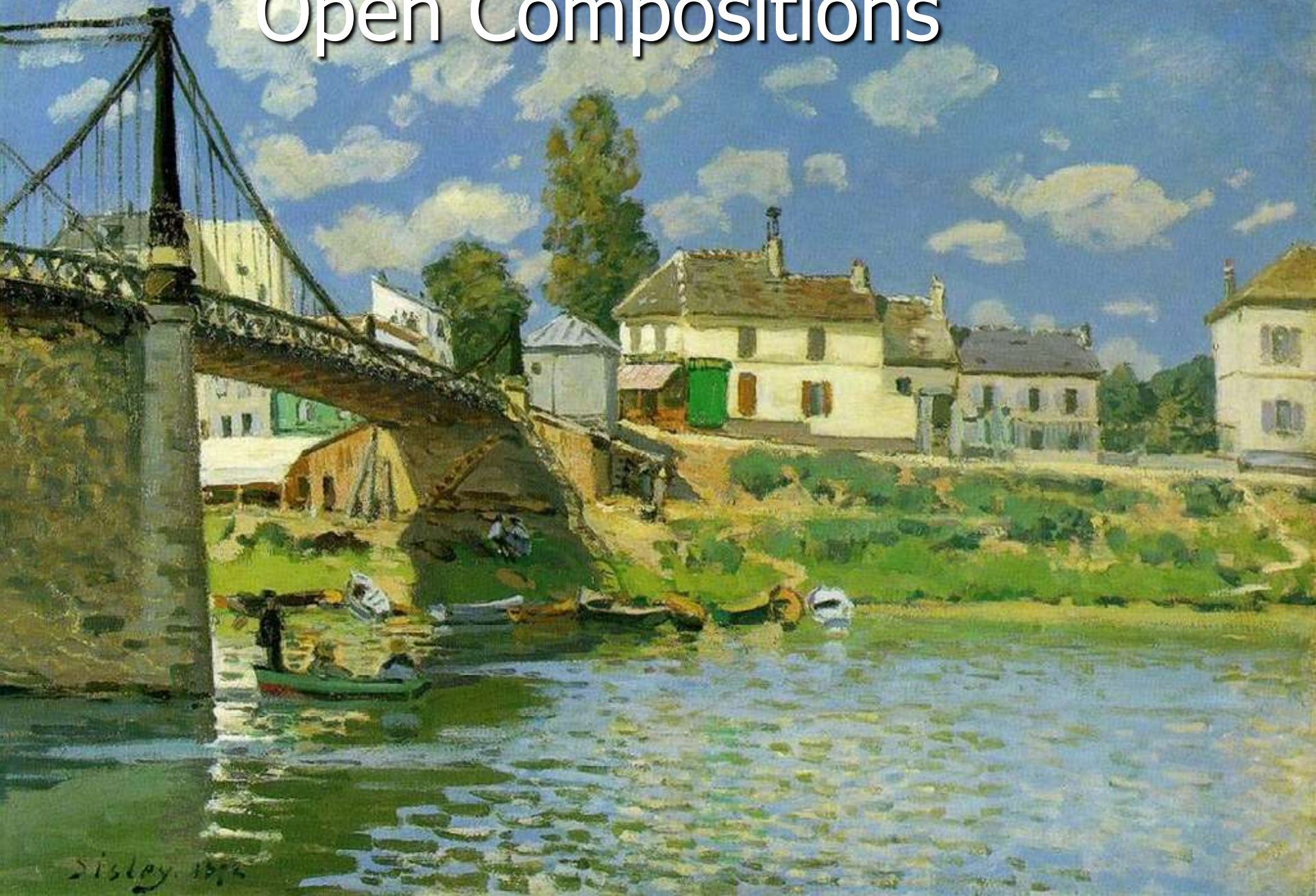
# Ordinary Subject Matter



# Unusual Visual Angles



# Open Compositions



Today the **Impressionist style** is very much alive and a very successful technique of painting. Though many artists have painted in the **Impressionist style**, the following artists were the innovators and masters of their style:

# Masters of Impressionism

- Claude Monet – Lilly ponds & Gardens
- Auguste Renoir – People Outdoors
- Edgar Degas – Dancers and Theater
- Camille Pissarro – Cities and Streets
- Alfred Sisley – Rivers and Landscapes



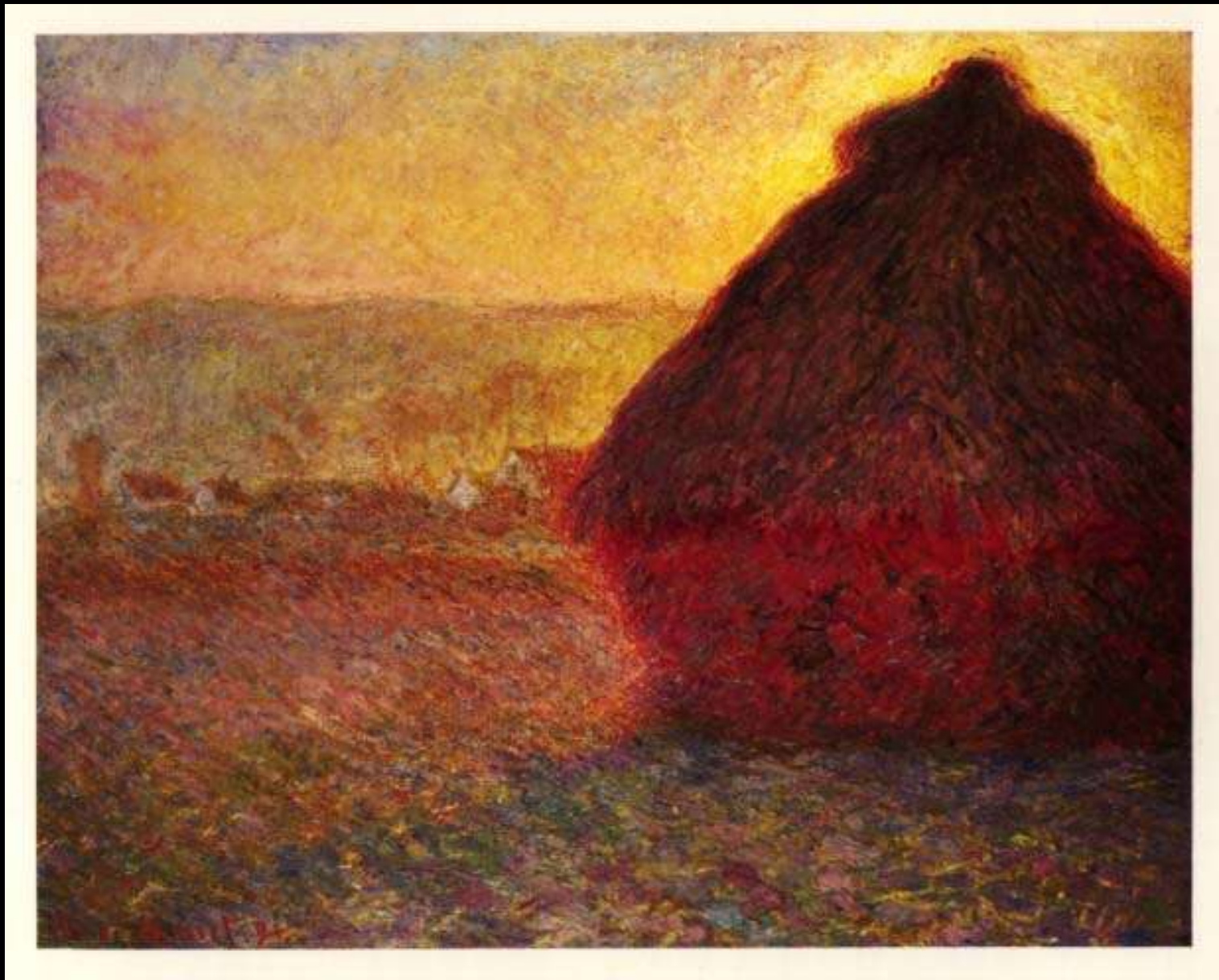
# Paintings by Claude Monet



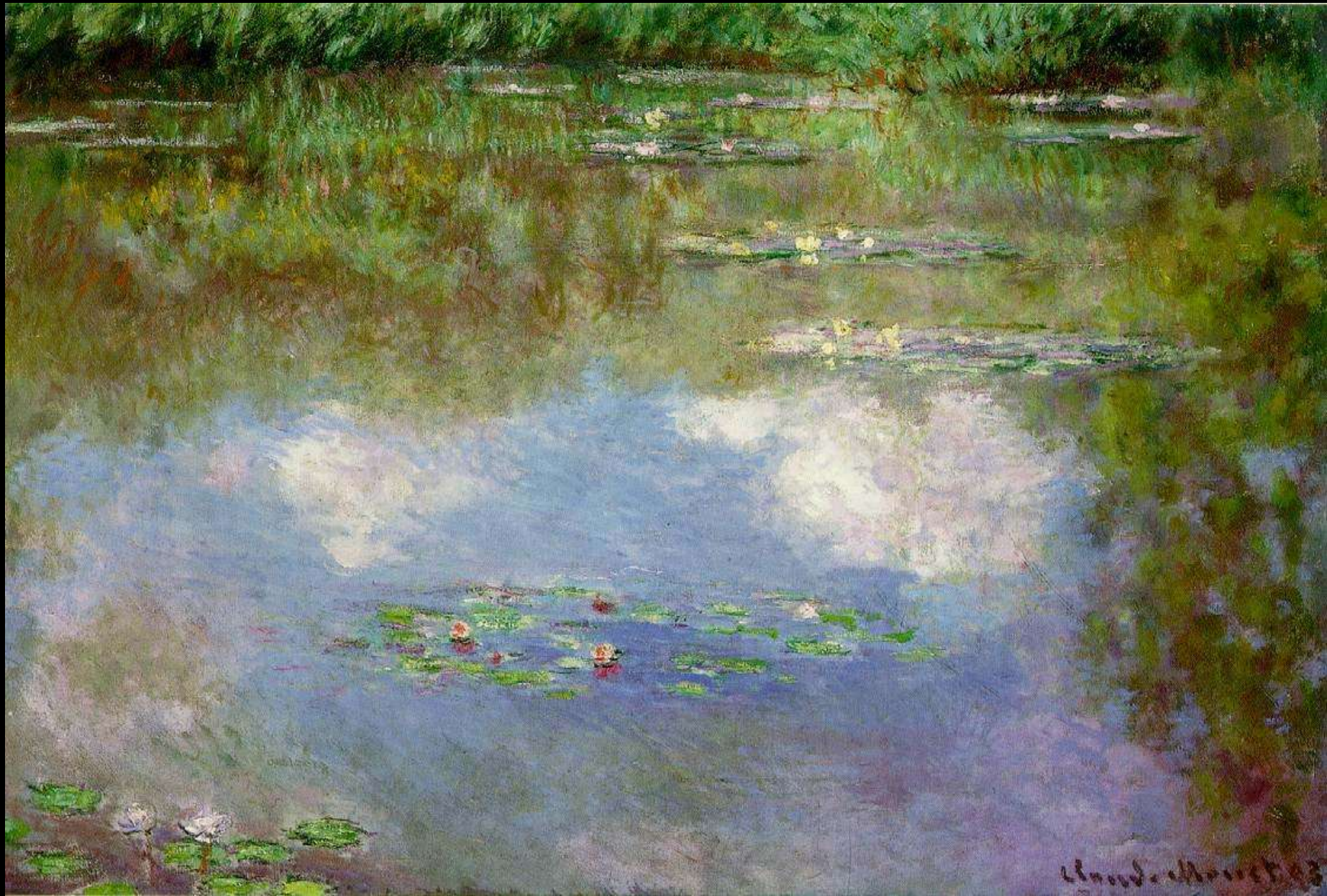
Self Portrait



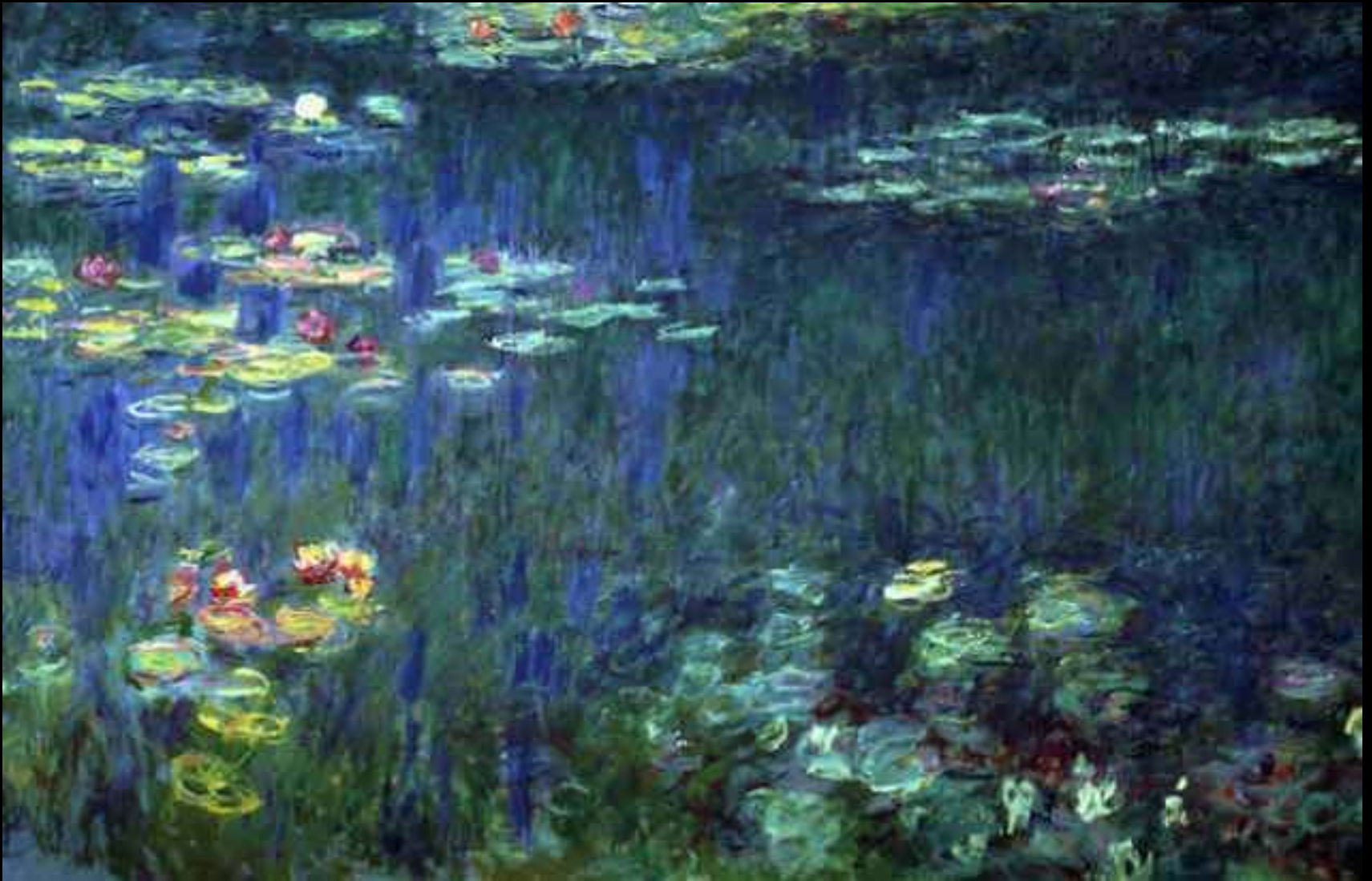
Artists Garden at Giverny - 1886



Haystack – Sunset - 1872



Water lilies – The Clouds - 1903



Water lilies – Green Reflection - 1906

# Paintings by Auguste Renoir



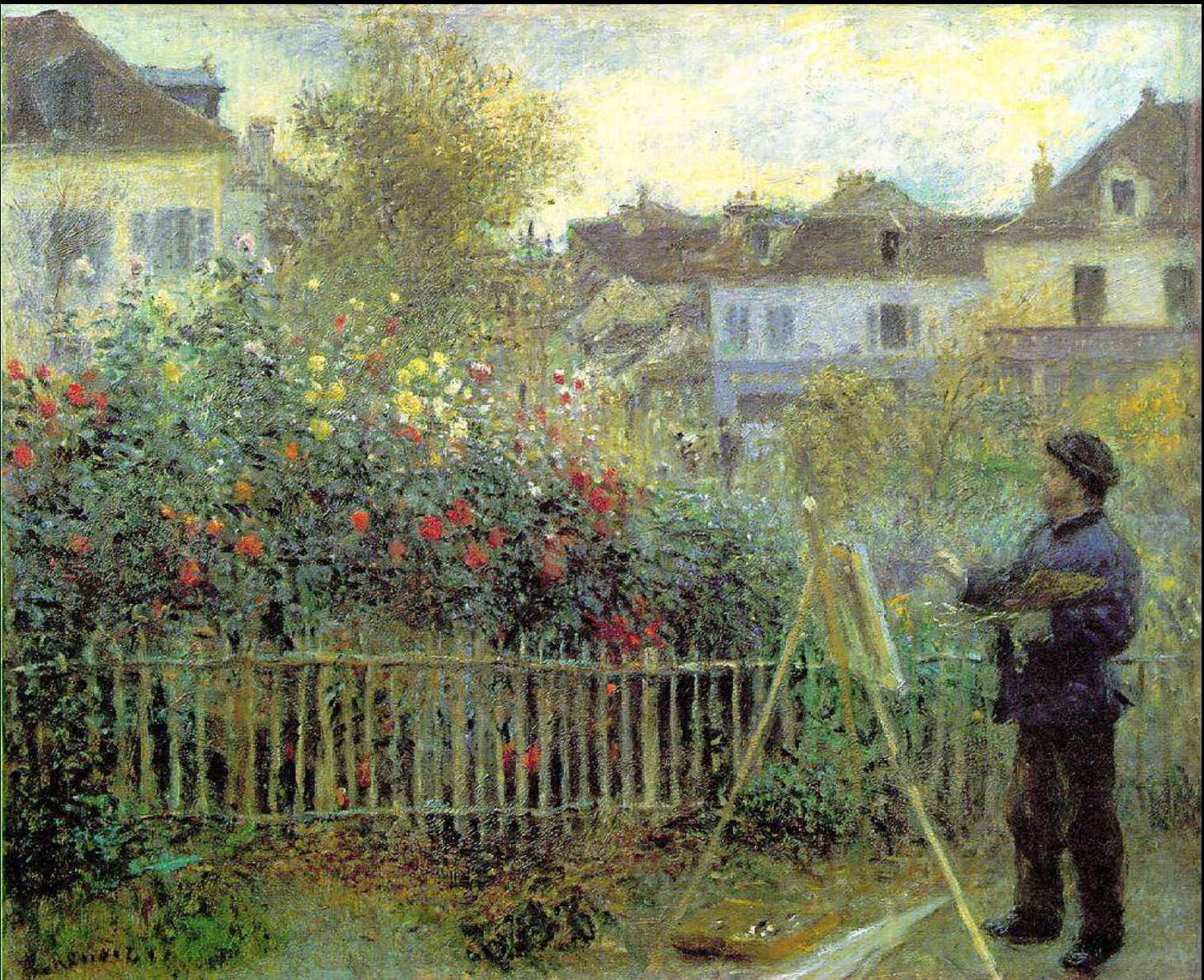


Gypsy Girl - 1879



The Boating Party - 1979





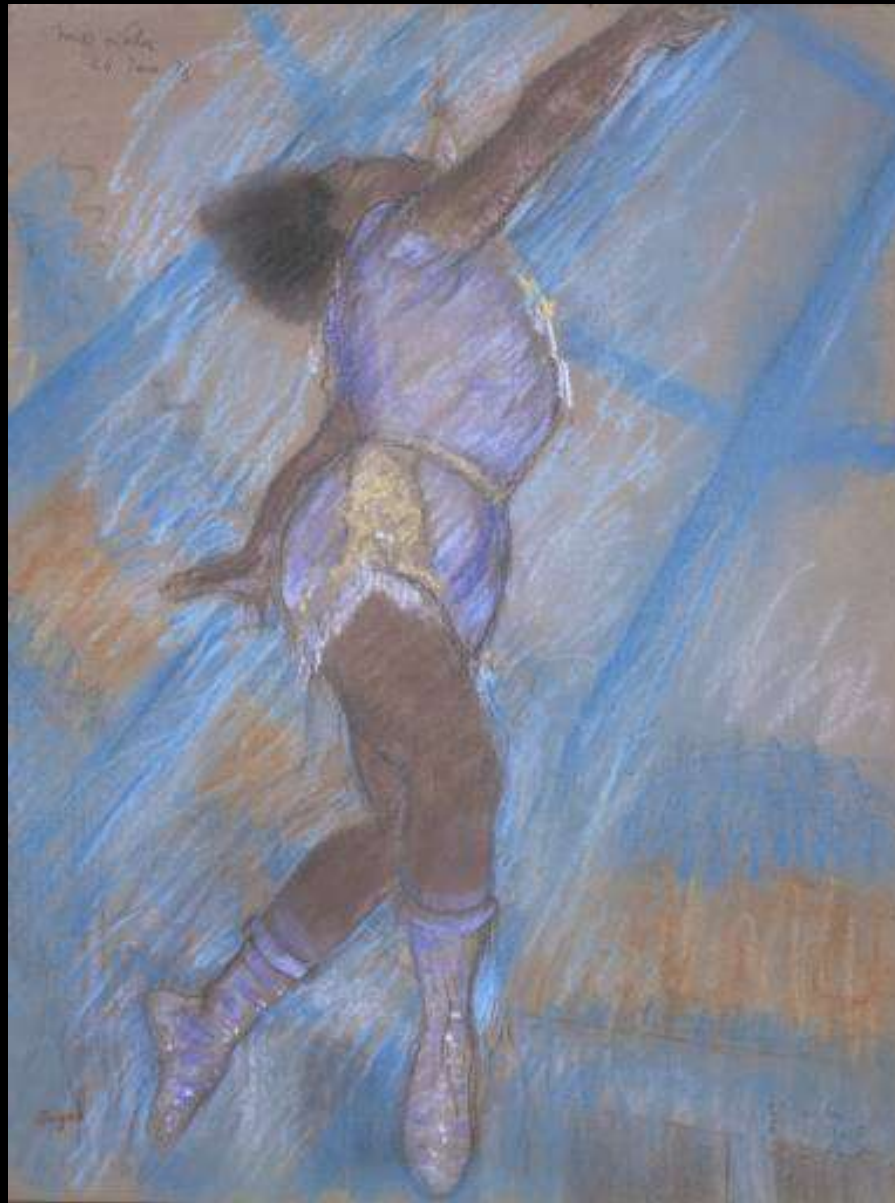
Monet painting in his Garden - 1873



The Swing 1876

# Paintings By Edgar Degas





Miss la la at the circus Fernando



Horses Before the Stands - 1876



Cabaret - 1877



The Rehearsal - 1878

# Paintings by Camille Pissaro



Self Portrait





The Orchard - 1872



Jallais Hills - 1876



Path Through the Woods - 1876



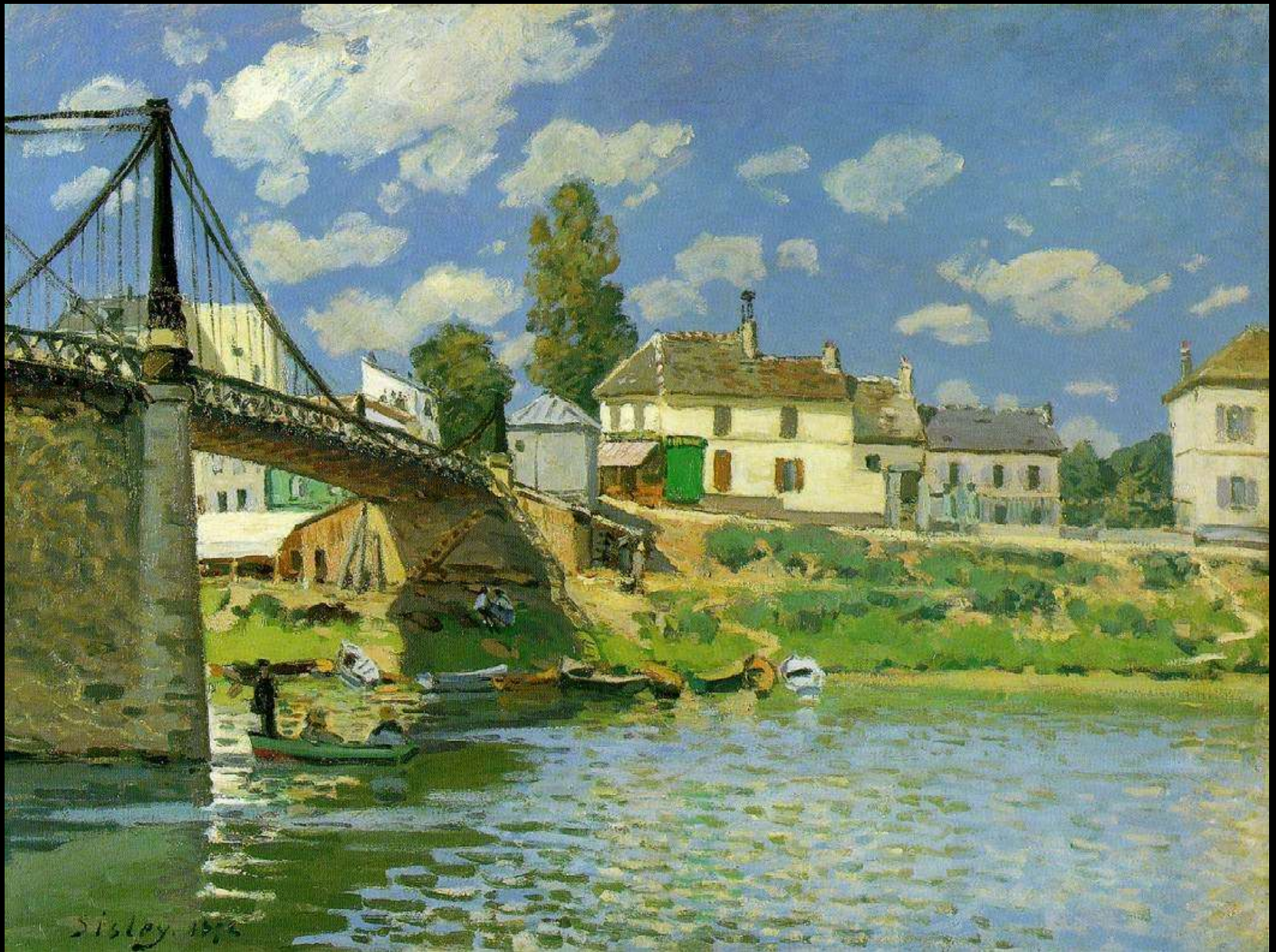
Boulevard Montmartre – Rainy Afternoon - 1897



Boulevard Montmartre – Night - 1897

# Paintings By Alfred Sisley





Bridge At Villanueve - 1872

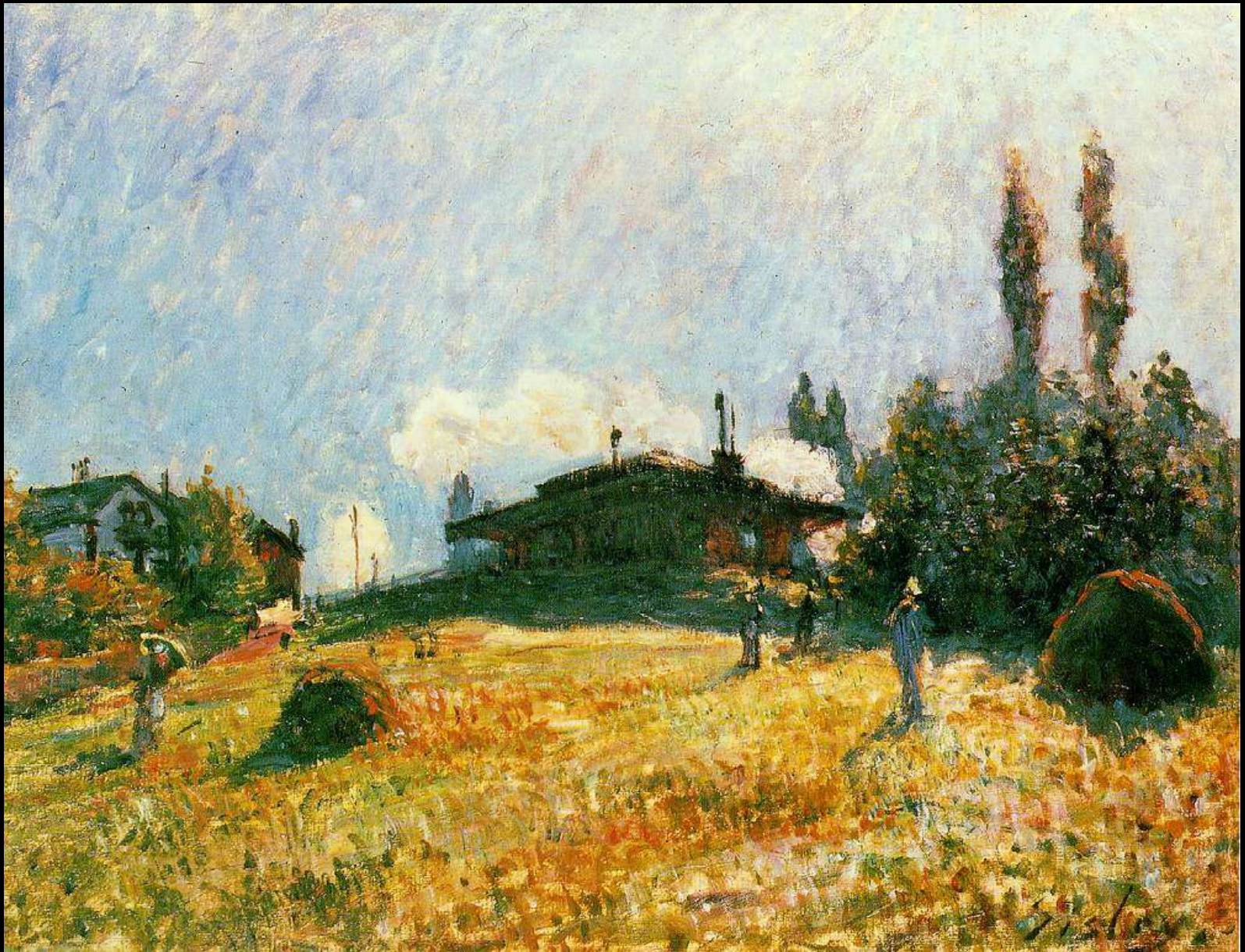


Banks of the Siene - 1873





Flood at Port Marly - 1876



Station at Serves - 1879



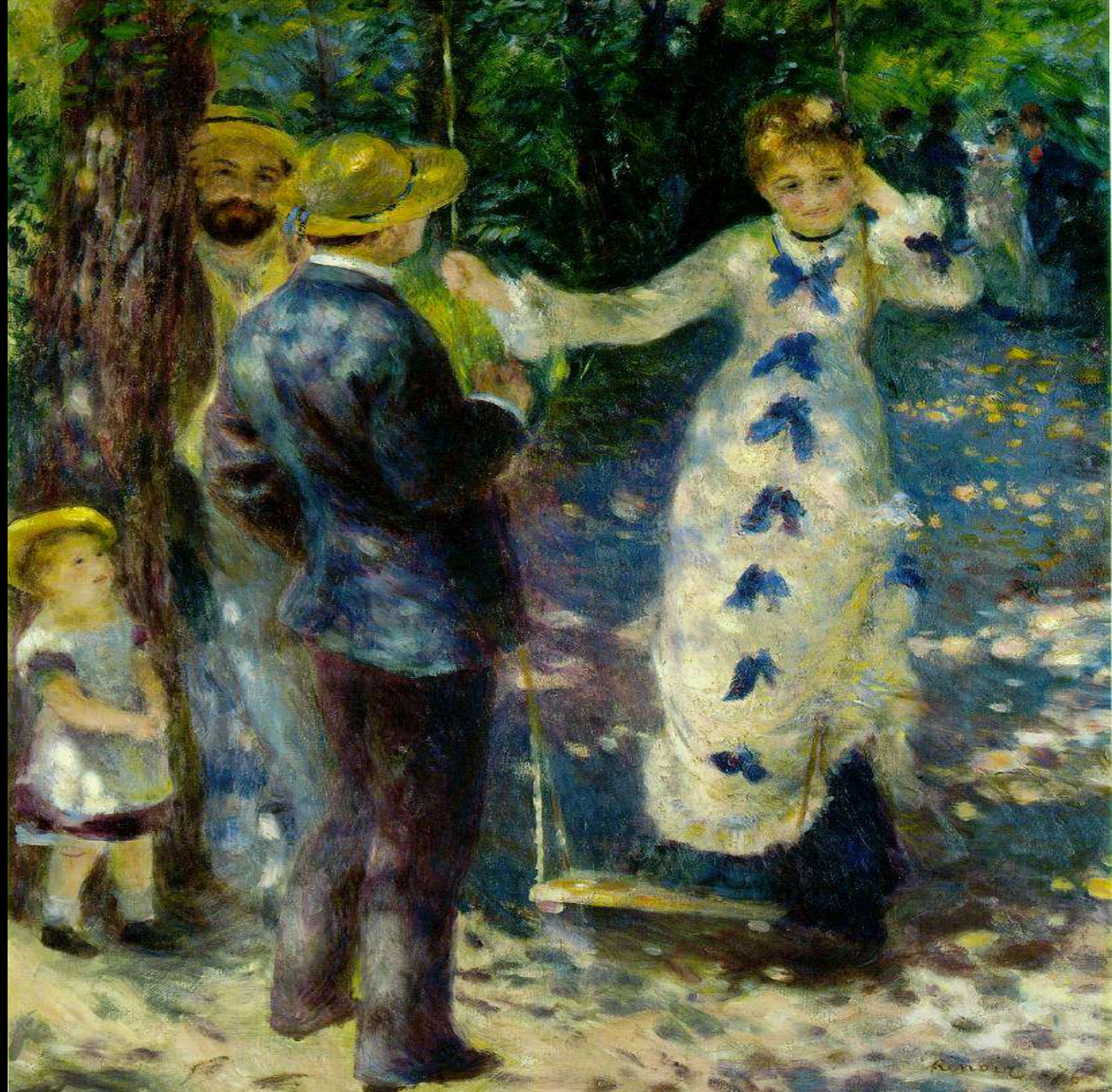
Church at Moret - 1894

Painting techniques  
developed and  
used by the  
Impressionists:

Short, thick strokes of paint are used to quickly capture the essence of the subject, rather than its details.

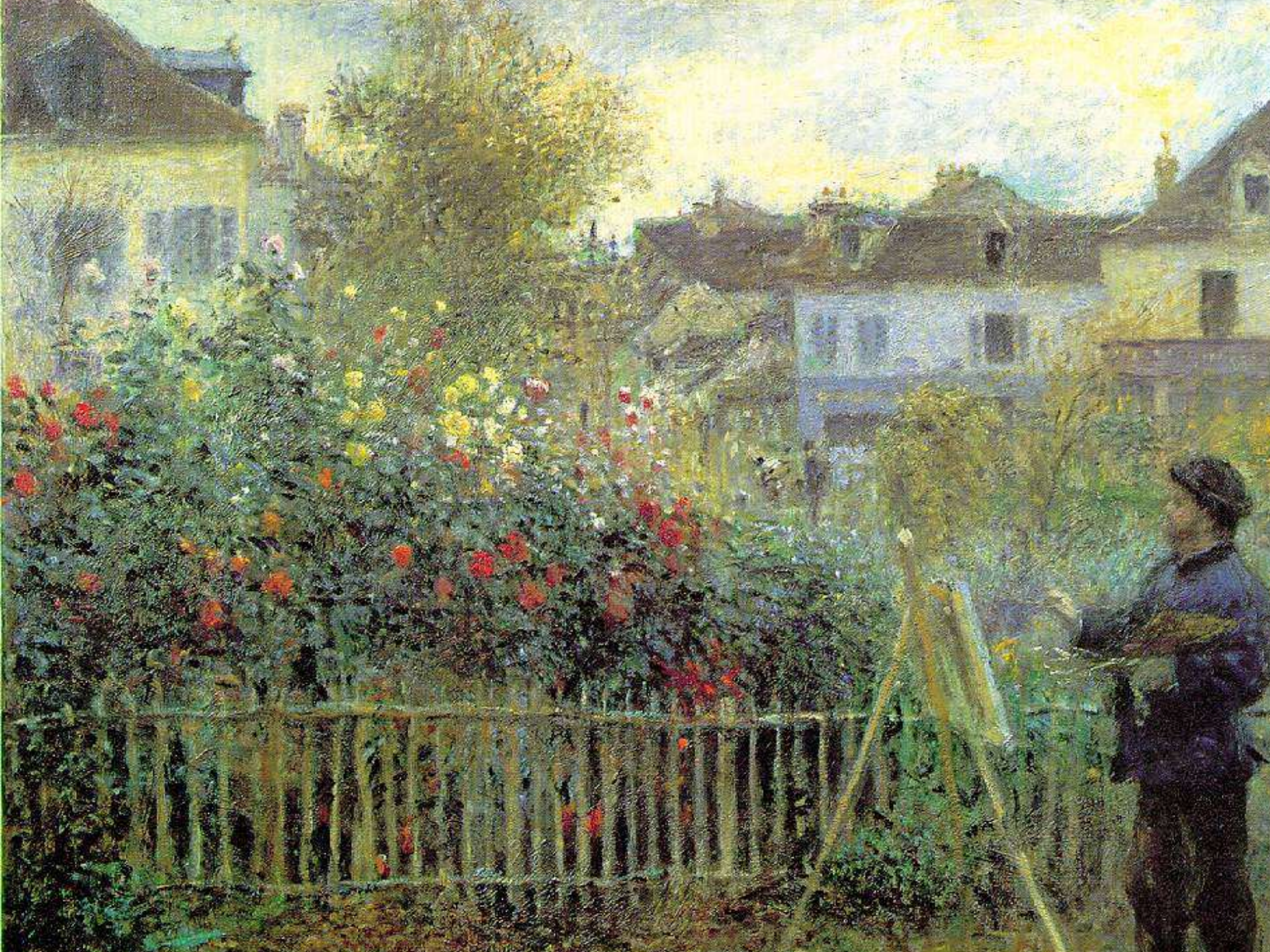


Colours are applied side-by-side with as little mixing as possible, creating a vibrant surface. The optical mixing of colors occurs in the eye of the viewer.

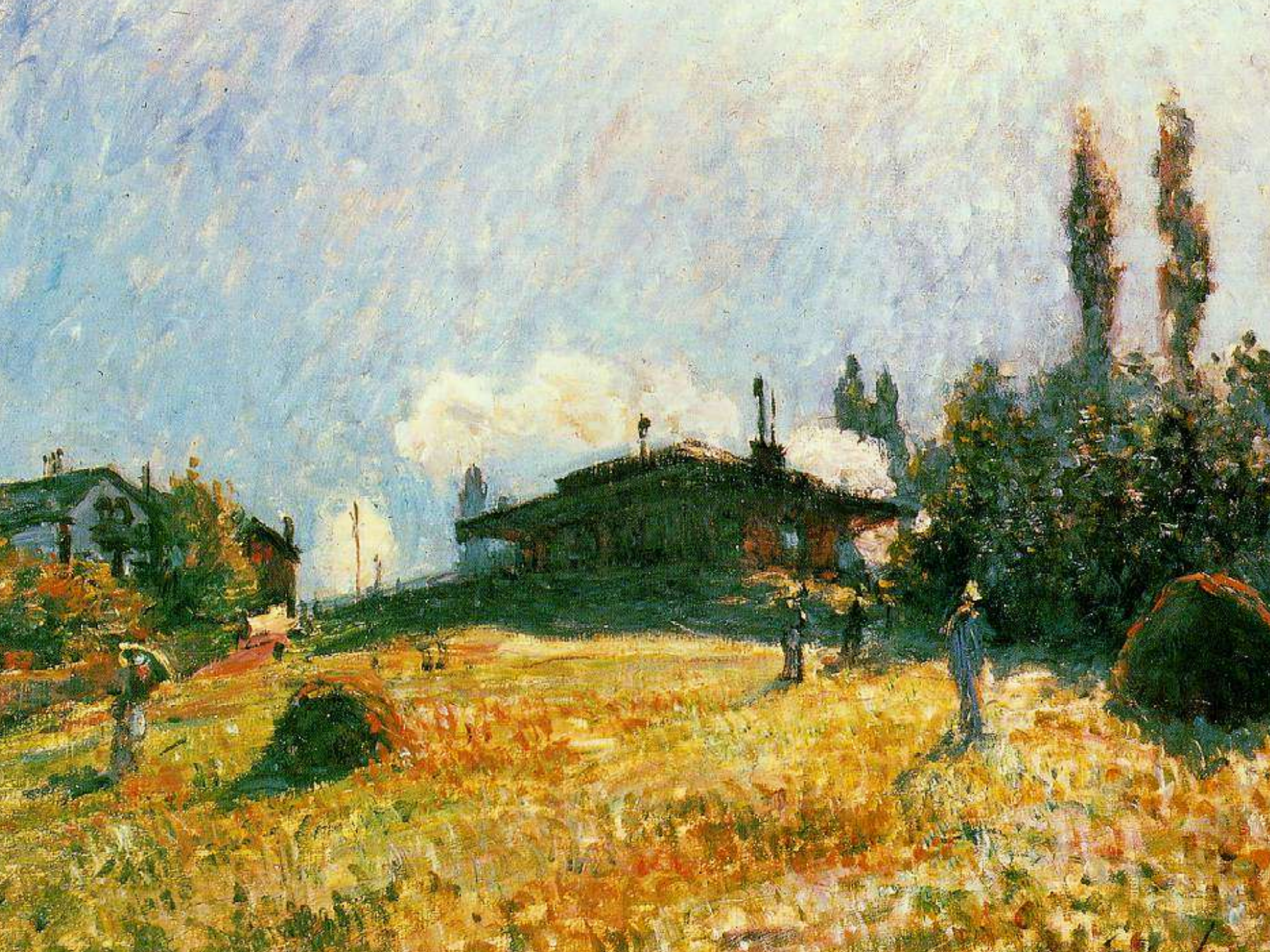




The play of natural light is emphasized. Close attention is paid to the reflection of colors from object to object.



Grays and dark tones are produced by mixing complimentary colors. In pure Impressionism the use of black paint is avoided.



In paintings made *en plein air* (outdoors), shadows are boldly painted with the blue of the sky as it is reflected onto surfaces, giving a sense of freshness and openness that was not captured in painting previously. (Blue shadows on snow inspired the technique.)



Impressionism became the birth of Modern Art. All of the major art movements which would follow, including

Post Impressionism, Fauvism,  
Cubism, Surrealism, Abstract  
Expressionism and Pop Art owe  
their beginnings to Impressionism.