

## Following Monet

### Reading List

#### Monet Triumph Of Impressionism

by Wildenstein Daniel

##### Master of the sublime: The essential Impressionist

Along with Turner, no artist has sought more than **Claude Monet** (1840–1926) to capture light itself on canvas. Of all the Impressionists, it was the man Cézanne called “only an eye, but my God what an eye!” who stayed completely true to the principle of absolute fidelity to the visual sensation, painting directly from the object.

It could be said that Monet reinvented the possibilities of color, and whether it was through his early interest in Japanese prints, his time in the dazzling light of Algeria as a conscript, or his personal acquaintance with the major painters of the late 1800s, what Monet produced throughout his long life would change forever the way we perceive both the natural world and its attendant phenomena. The high point of his explorations was the late series of waterlilies, painted in his own garden at Giverny, which, in their moves toward almost total formlessness, are really the origin of abstract art.

This biography does full justice to this most remarkable and profoundly influential artist, and offers **numerous reproductions and archive photos alongside a detailed and insightful commentary.**

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#### Monet: The Late Years

by George T. M. Shackelford , Claire M. Barry, Simon Kelly, Emma Cauvin, Claire DurandGÇôruel Sno, Marianne Mathieu

In the later years of his life, Claude Monet stayed close to home, turning to his extraordinary garden at Giverny for inspiration. The garden became a laboratory for the artist's concentrated study of natural phenomena – and for a revolutionary shift in the appearance and execution of his paintings. This beautiful publication examines the last phase of Monet's career, beginning in 1913, bringing together approximately 60 of his greatest works from this period. More specifically, **Monet: The Late Years** focuses on the series that Monet invented and reinvented at Giverny, reevaluating many large-scale works that have long been considered preparatory studies, reexamining their relationship to and status as finished works. Essays by a roster of distinguished scholars address topics such as Monet's plans for displaying his late paintings, the mechanics of his painting technique, and the critical and market reception of these works. Through this visually stunning reassessment, Monet's

late works, still astonishing a century later, recast the titan of Impressionism as a radical modern painter.

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### **The Private Lives Of The Impressionists**

by Sue Roe

"Manet, Monet, Pissarro, Cezanne, Renoir, Degas, Renoir, Sisley, Berthe Morisot and Mary Cassatt. Their contemporaries branded them as lunatics, but today this is a roll-call of great artists, whose paintings evoke a unique atmosphere of harmony- languid landscapes flooded with light, shop-workers dancing on their day off, bars and gas-lit streets, the sunlit beach at Trouville. We all know these dazzling pictures but how well do we know the Impressionists as people? This book tells their story. Sue Roe shows how the early leaders of the group first met in the Paris studios and lived and worked closely together for nearly twenty years. Painting outdoors, meeting in cafes, they supported each other and shared emotional and financial difficulties. Defying the hide-bound rules of the salon, they staged joint exhibitions and rebelled against artistic prejudice, moral tyranny and social hierarchy. Often rejected by their horrified parents, they led volatile and precarious lives- their wives were servants, models, flower-sellers and, although their paintings today sell for millions, they were barely able to support their families. This intimate, colourful, superbly researched account

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### **Mad Enchantment: Claude Monet and the Painting of the Water Lilies**

by Ross King

Claude Monet's water lily paintings are among the most iconic and beloved works of art of the past century. Yet these entrancing images were created at a time of terrible private turmoil and sadness for the artist. The dramatic history behind these paintings is little known; Ross King's *Mad Enchantment* tells the full story for the first time and, in the process, presents a compelling and original portrait of one of our most popular and cherished artists.

By the outbreak of war in 1914, Monet, then in his mid-seventies, was one of the world's most famous and successful painters, with a large house in the country, a fleet of automobiles and a colossal reputation. However, he had virtually given up painting following the death of his wife Alice in 1911 and the onset of blindness a year later. Nonetheless, it was during this period of sorrow, ill health and creative uncertainty that – as the guns roared on the Western Front – he began the most demanding and innovative paintings he had ever attempted.

Encouraged by close friends such as Georges Clemenceau, France's dauntless prime minister, Monet would work on these magnificent paintings throughout the war years and then for the rest of

his life. So obsessed with his monumental task that the village barber was summoned to clip his hair as he worked beside his pond, he covered hundreds of yards of canvas with shimmering layers of pigment. As his ambitions expanded with his paintings, he began planning what he intended to be his legacy to the world: the 'Musée Claude Monet' in the Orangerie in Paris.

Drawing on letters and memoirs and focusing on this remarkable period in the artist's life, *Mad Enchantment* gives an intimate portrayal of Claude Monet in all his tumultuous complexity, and firmly places his water lily paintings among the greatest achievements in the history of art.

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### **Claude Monet (Portrait of an Artist)**

by Lucy Brownridge

Learn about one of the worlds favourite painters - Claude Monet - in this unique biography series, which depicts the story of an artist 's life through their own masterworks. Claude Monet is one of the best loved artists of all time. Find out how this special young painter strove to capture light and feeling in his paintings and how together with a group of talented friends, he came to start the most famous art movement of all time, Impressionism. In his long life he experienced war and heartbreak, love and the joy of family. See how his life shaped each piece of art he made and that throughout it all he never stopped trying to paint the ever changing light and glimmering water. In the end he built himself a garden filled with both, with waterlilies floating on dappled ponds setting the scene for his last, infamous masterpieces. A Monet masterpiece is featured on every spread. This art story also includes a closer look at 10 of Monets masterpieces at the back.

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