

SPECIAL INTEREST DAY – MONDAY 13 APRIL 2026

To be held in the Dove Suite at The Ark, Turners Hill. Timing 10.00 - 15.00

Subject: The Impressionists and Paris: Urbanization, Art, and Innovation

Lecturer: Dr Matthew Morgan PhD, MA, MA

Paris, largely considered the “Centre of Impressionism”, had a lasting influence on the art of Monet and the Impressionists. Inspired by the rapidly changing modernism of the city, as well as by ordinary Parisians, these artists captured scenes of everyday life that reveal key moments in the history of the city - from Haussmann’s renovation, to the development of leisure, to scenes in the bars, theatres, and Paris streets. This Special Interest Day will be exploring key locations that inspired these great artists: Montmartre, the Ile de Chatou, and Giverny (Monet’s escape from the city)

Lecture 1 - Montmartre and Haussmann’s Boulevards: In the first session, we’ll discover Haussmann’s famous renovation of Paris, that changed the city landscape and transformed the ways that people lived. But at the same time as the modernity of the city inspired some of the Impressionists, other explored the gritty realism of the bars and cafes in the artists’ district in Paris: Montmartre.



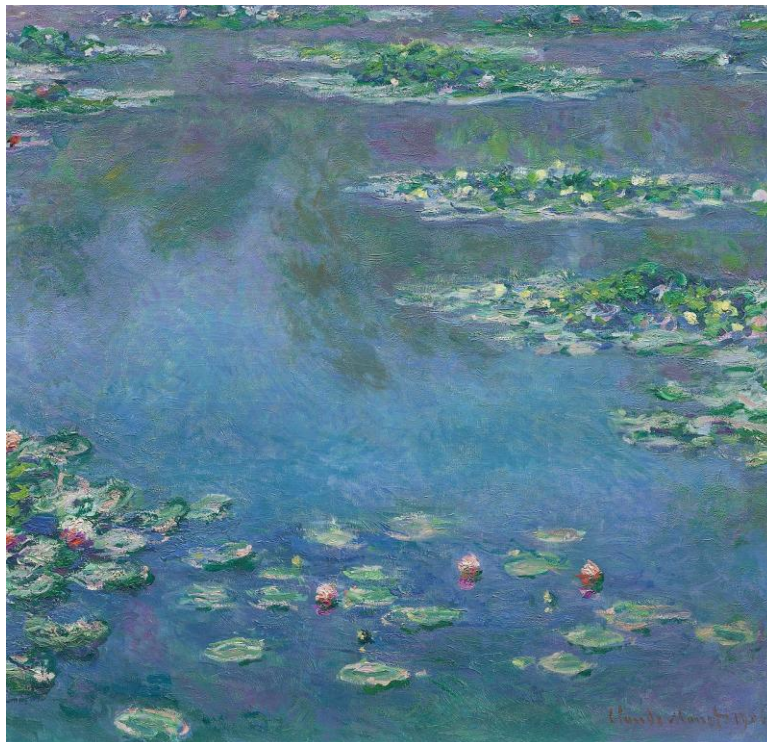
Claude Monet – The Gare St-Lazare 1877

Lecture 2 - The Seine and Argenteuil: In the second session, we'll look at depictions of leisure and fun along the Seine, where pleasure-seeking bourgeoisie enjoyed socializing, and where artists such as Monet, Manet, and Renoir set up easels to paint *en plein air*.



Claude Monet – Straßenbrücke in Argenteuil 1874

Lecture 3 - Giverny: Though Giverny was outside of Paris, it represented an escape from the urbanization of the city for Monet, who created a “green nirvana” where he painted his famous water lilies. In the final session, we'll look at the divergence of representations of the real and the natural world as Monet sought to create and record his own personal paradise.



Claude Monet – Water Lilies 1906

(All 3 Images from Wikimedia Commons)