

Impressionism

Art & Design

What the Impressionists were painting against, and what followed.

French painters who exhibited independently from 1874, rejecting the Salon's finish, its historical subjects and its studio light in favour of contemporary life painted outdoors.

FIRST SHOW
1874

SHOWS IN ALL
eight, to 1886

- First independent exhibition, Paris, 1874.
- Named after Monet's Impression, Sunrise.
- Against: the Salon jury, brown tone, high finish.
- Broken colour, visible brushwork, no glazing.
- Paint in tubes made working outdoors practical.
- Morisot and Cassatt were central, not peripheral.

LOOK FOR IT

Monet painted Rouen Cathedral over thirty times to record changing light, not the building.

The name began as an insult from a hostile critic, and the group adopted it. Most movement names start that way.