

# IMPRESSIONISM

Impressionism was really the beginning of what is called “modern art.”

It began in the 19th century, around the 1860s-1870s, in Paris.

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## Characteristics of the Impressionists:

- Specific brushstroke style—*dots, dabs, swirls, and short, thick strokes of paint*
- Depiction of natural light (and reflection)
- Ordinary subject matter—*everyday people doing everyday things*
- Colors—*complementary pairs and exaggerated natural color*
- Strokes of color placed next to one another but left unblended, so that the viewer’s eye would blend them upon looking at the work
- Impasto—*a very thick application of paint*

After Impressionism came Post-Impressionism, a series of movements inspired by the foundations of Impressionism. Artists like Vincent van Gogh, Georges Seurat, and Paul Gauguin each took an aspect of Impressionism and exaggerated it in their body of work.



This closeup of "Woman in a Garden" by Berthe Morisot, (1882/1883) illustrates the thicker application of paint employed by Impressionists. Photographed at the Art Institute of Chicago by Mary Harrsch.

Image and caption from:

<http://passionateabouthistory.blogspot.com/2013/01/impressionism-technology-sparks.html>