

Claude Monet - Winter Sun

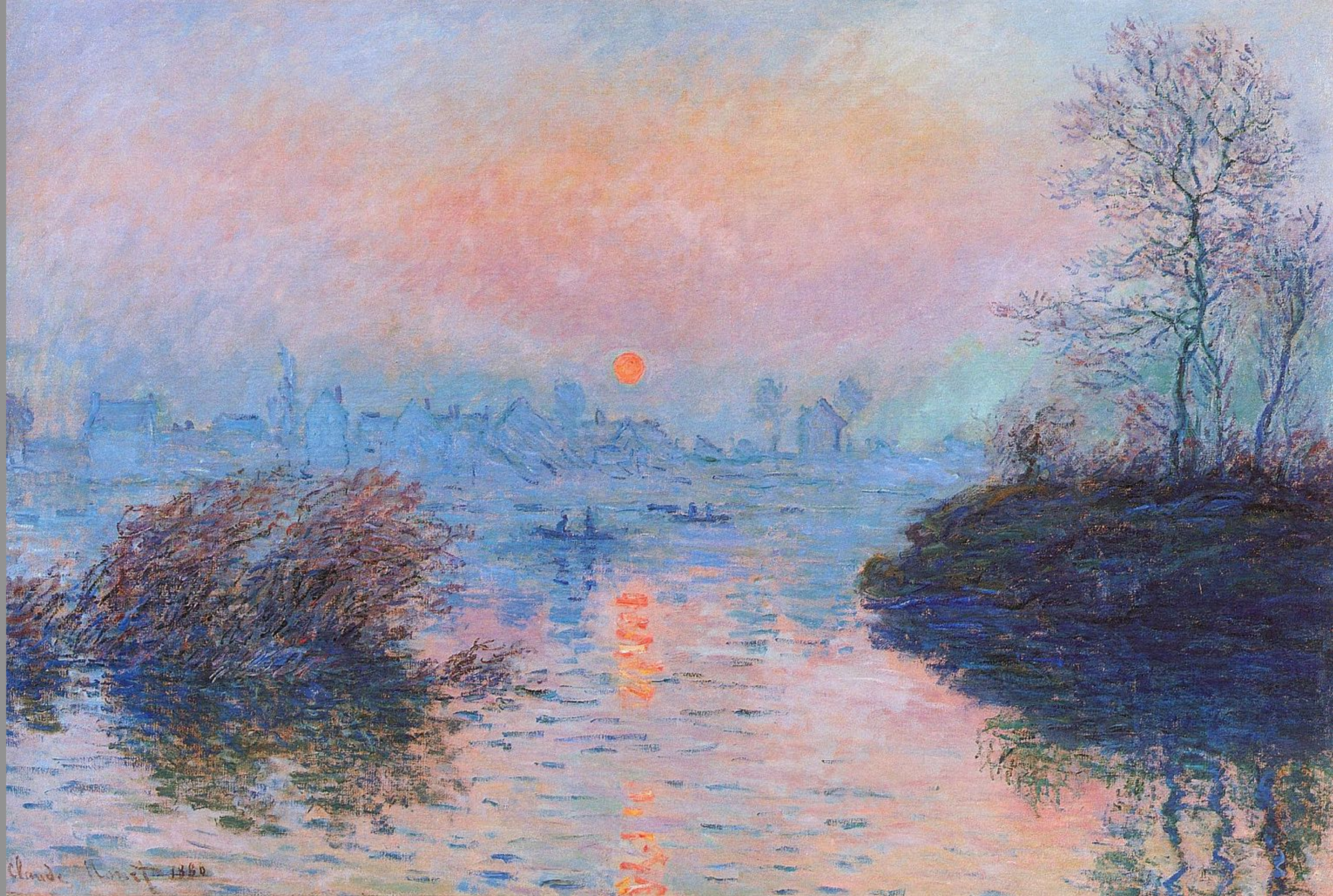
Born in Paris in 1840. The family moved to Normandy in 1845. He was called Oscar by his family. He was baptized as a Catholic and later became an atheist. His family hoped he would work in their shipping business, he had already decided he wanted to be an artist. After the death of his mother at age 16 he went to live with an Aunt in Paris. Drafted for military service for seven years he had to leave due to Typhoid. This prompted his Aunt to support his Art Studies. He had already since a teenager been interested in 'en plein air' painting and Landscape and was able to find tuition in Oil Painting techniques. He married Camille in 1870. (She had become pregnant and gave birth to their first child in 1867) On the outset of the Franco-Prussina War they moved to Argenteuill.

Since 1860, Monet was less inspired by the traditions and Salon artists of the time. He strove to capture the light conditions and aimed to express perception of nature directly en plein air. His inspirations came from William Turner and John Constable. The term 'Impressionism' comes from his Painting 'Sunrise' - Impression. After this he worked independly with other Impressionist Artists. In 1883 he moved to his home and garden in Giverny. He documented the French countryside by painting the same scene many times in order to capture the changing of light and the passing of the seasons.

He died in 1926. (Lung Cancer aged 86) At the funeral the traditional black cloth covering the coffin was removed by a friend and replaced by a flowery one. 'No black for Monet!'



Claude Monet
Winter Sun at Lavacourt.
1879 - 1880



Claude Monet, sunset-on-the-seine-at-lavacourt-winter-effect. 1880

Between 1890 and 1891 Monet devoted some thirty paintings to the haystacks in a field near his house at Giverny. In the midst of this effort, he wrote to the critic Gustave Geoffroy: "I am working very hard, struggling with a series of different effects (haystacks), but at this season the sun sets so fast I cannot follow it. . . . The more I continue, the more I see that a great deal of work is necessary in order to succeed in rendering what I seek." Haystacks was the first group of paintings that Monet exhibited as a series; in 1891, fifteen were shown at the Galerie Durand-Ruel in Paris.

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/437122>



The complementary colours orange and blue enrich the solid forms and cast shadows of the haystacks in the snow. They stood in a field just to the west of Monet's house in Giverny, where he established his famous water lily gardens. Monet persuaded the local farmer to leave the stacks for the autumn and relatively mild winter of 1890 so that he could paint a series of pictures. He combined work out-of-doors with some in the studio and produced at least thirty paintings of haystacks in different lights. Their lyrical, almost abstract, quality influenced many later artists.



 NATIONAL GALLERIES SCOTLAND

Haystacks: Snow Effect, 1891, Claude Monet
Photography by Antonia Reeve

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Snow Scene at Argenteuil 1875

71.1 x 91.4 cm





The Banks of the Fjord at Christiania by Claude Oscar Monet – 1895



The Magpie by Claude Oscar Monet – 1869



Route, effet de neige, soleil couchant (Snow Effect along a Road with Setting Sun) by Claude Oscar Monet



Road to Giverny in Winter by Claude Oscar Monet – 1885



Mount Kolsaas, Rose Reflection by Claude Oscar Monet – 1895



Claude Monet 95

Houses in the Snow, Norway by Claude Oscar Monet – 1895



Frost by Claude Oscar Monet – 1875



The Seine at Port Villez, Snow Effect by Claude Oscar Monet – 1885