

Artist	Monet
Title	Impression sunrise
Date	1872
Medium	Oil paint on canvas
Scale	48cm x 63cm
Scope	Landscape Painting
Style	Impressionism



Stylistic comment and artistic influence: Monet was influenced by the plein air painting of the Barbizon school- these were artists who painted in the woods and forests outside Paris.

Critical text quote:
Leroy: Impressionism...! Was certain of it ... what freedom,

Use or development of materials, techniques & processes:
Painted en plein air. Impressionists did this to capture accurate effects of natural light on figures and forms
Invention of tubes of paint allowed an artist to create their work outside of the studio space

Influence from technological factors:
Invention of tubes of paint allowed an artist to create their work outside of the studio space
Monet worked en plein air and he travelled by train - a recent technological development - in search of landscapes outside Paris which would become locations for his works.

Influence from cultural/social factors:
The dock appears industrial suggesting a modern scene rather than an idealised, picturesque landscape

Influence from political factors:
Monet and the Impressionists struggled to have their works accepted by the Academies and Salons which favoured academic art produced by painters such as Cabanel. Monet and artists including Renoir and Manet would paint everyday scenes and unidealised locations to challenge the conventions of art.

Formal features	
Composition	Buildings, boats and their rigging in the port create a horizontal divide between sky and sea. The work is titled Impression as the work attempts to show a brief, passing impression of a scene rather than a static and clearly detailed outlined view.
Colour or texture	Painting is made up of various shades of grey, pink and blue as Monet shows the early morning sun colouring the sky while its form is reflected in the rippling waters. The sky and the sea are made up of thin washes of unblended colour which overlap. Areas of bare canvas appear in the upper left corner. Dark blue used for figures on small boats and colour suggests they are silhouette with the sun behind them.
Light & tone	Capture accurate effects of natural light falling on figures and forms. Landscapes featuring rivers or seas appealed to Impressionists as this allowed them to attempt to capture light flickering on rippling water.
Space & depth or relief	Sun is a small orange sphere in upper right and acts as focal point. No clear horizon line, unclear buildings and the water, sky and reflection have merged together.
Line or brushwork	To capture the changing effects of the light Monet had to work quickly which resulted in the work appearing unfinished or sketchy by Academic standards. The sea is made up of thick horizontal dabs of paint to show ripples on the surface of the sea. Thick pink and orange dabs show where the rising sun is reflected on the water. Thick paint gives it a solid form. Thick paint applied to the figures and small boats.