

Artist	Pierre-August Renoir
Title	Bal du Moulin de la Galette
Date	1876
Medium	Oil on canvas
Scale	131 x 175 cm
Scope	Scene of leisure
Style	Impressionism



Influence from technological factors:

Invention of tubes of paint allowed an artist to create their work outside of the studio space

Influence from cultural/social factors:

Sunday was the only day which working class people in Paris had free to socialise. Here we see them outdoors, laughing and dancing in an open-air dancehall which were popular at the time.

Renoir and the Impressionists painted scenes of everyday life to challenge the conventions of Academic and Salon art.

Stylistic comment and artistic influence: Influence of photography shown in the cropped composition. Tubes of oil paint allowed Renoir to work outdoors and capture the scene directly. Influenced to paint in impressionist style following Monet's "Impression Sunrise".

- Reaction against academic traditions of the time (no visual brushstrokes, idealised figures, mythological/historical scenes)

Critical text quote:

"The world knew how to laugh in those days! Machinery had not absorbed all of life: you had leisure for enjoyment and no one was the worse for it." - Renoir

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

Formal features	
Composition	Cropped- we see this in the figures either side. Crowded- suggesting a busy scene.
Colour or texture	Blue shadows, green foliage, white highlights on the glass objects on foreground table. Yellow appears throughout linking the scene- this is shown in the young girls' hair and the straw hats worn by young men.
Light & tone	Small patches of sunlight shine through the foliage above onto the shoulders of the men in the foreground. Blue shadow- typical of Impressionism.
Space & depth or relief	Foreground figures more solid and darker in colour. Background forms hazy and unclear- suggesting movement and distance.
Line or brushwork	Short brushstrokes to capture movement of the dancing figures. No outlines on figures.