



# IMPRESSIONISM

1867-1886

# Impressionism

- Originated in...
- At first the public did not like their work. One newspaper critic called their work sketches or impressions, but not finished pieces.



# Characteristics

- Light was important to the Impressionists. They wanted to capture the moment.
- Scenes of daily leisurely activities
- Loose/small brushstrokes to simulate actual reflected light
- Pastel colours (with blues and violets replacing blacks and browns)
- Reproduced artists' visual
- “impression”



# Know your Artists...

**Edouard Manet**

**Father of Impressionism -**

**Claude Monet**

**Pierre-Auguste Renoir**

**Edgar Degas**

**Mary Cassatt**



# Edouard Manet

Father of Impressionism – joined the group in 1873, but never stopped using black



# Edouard Manet, Luncheon on the Grass, 1862–63



**Titian, Pastoral Concert, c1510.  
HIGH ITALIAN  
RENAISSANCE**

A jury rejected *The Luncheon on the Grass* by Manet primarily because it depicted a nude woman with two clothed men at a picnic. The unusually large number of rejected works that year, set off a firestorm among French artists. The Paris Salon rejected it for exhibition in 1863, but he exhibited it at the Salon des Refusés (Salon of the rejected) later in the year.

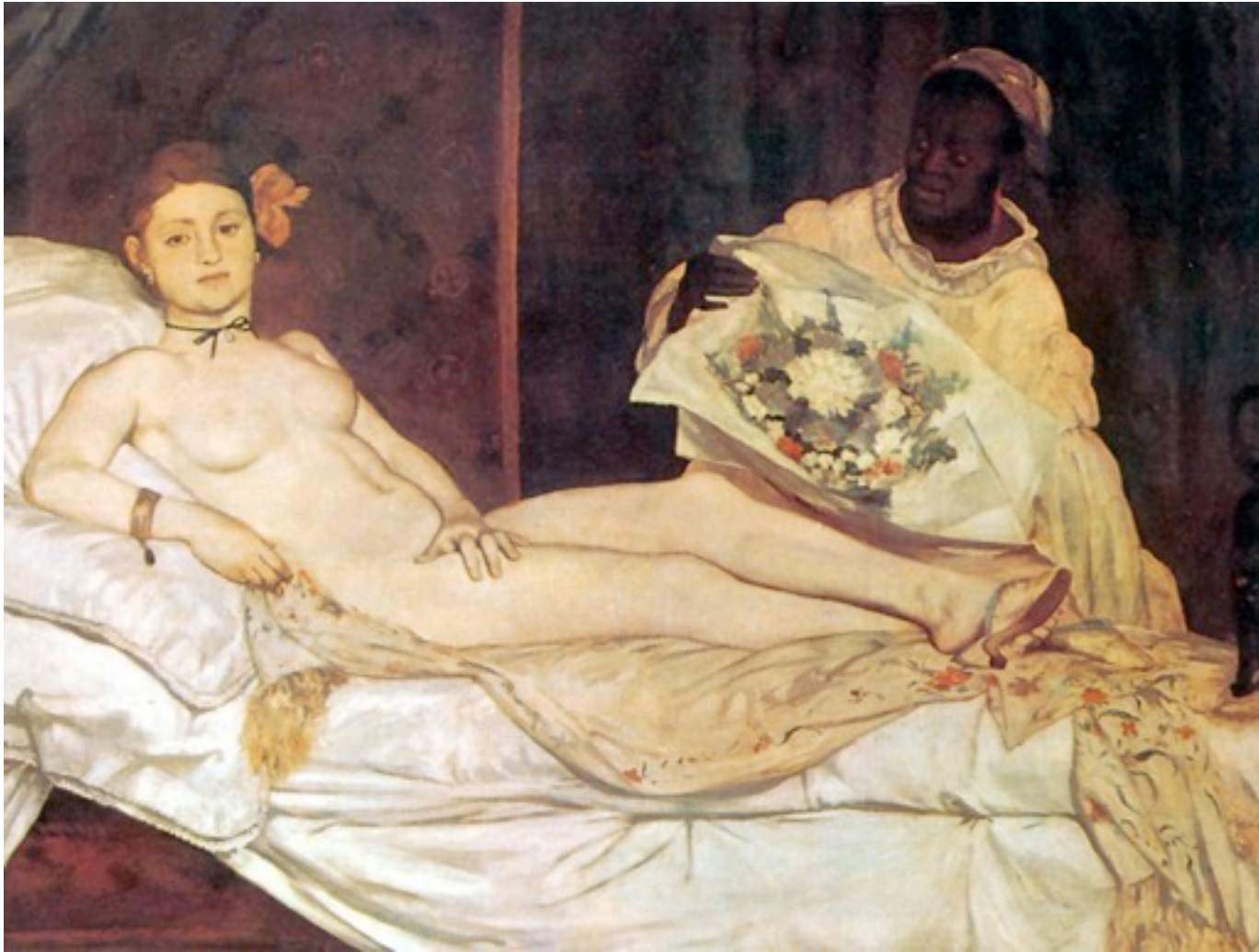
Edouard Manet, Luncheon on the Grass, 1862-63



M. Raimondi, Judgment of Paris, c1515. HIGH ITAL RENAISSANCE



# Edouard Manet, Olympia, 1863





# Compare Manet's Olympia with Titian's Venus of Urbino



# Edouard Manet, The Fifer, 1866



# Edouard Manet, A Bar at the Folies-Bergère, 1882.



# Claude Monet



# Pierre-Auguste Renoir



# Edgar Degas

Considered the master of drawing the human figure in motion

Known for paintings of ballerinas



# Edgar Degas, Ballet Rehearsal, 1876

Degas's fascination with patterns of motion brought him to the Paris Opéra school of ballet. His observations of classes there became his main and most favourite subjects.

Degas's frequent cutoff figures and objects, such as the windows and the stairs indicate his interest in capturing single moments in time, like in photography, which is also used in the process of his paintings. He would take photographs to make preliminary studies for his works.

The prominent diagonals of the floorboards carry the viewers eyes throughout the painting. The large, off-center empty space in the center creates an illusion that the floor is continuous, thus connecting the viewer to the painted figures, as though viewers are on the same ground as the dancers.



Degas, as well as other impressionist artists acquainted with the 1860s, greatly admired their spatial organization, the familiar and intimate themes, and the flat colour.

# Edgar Degas, The Dance Class, 1874





# Edgar Degas, The Dance School, 1874



# Edgar Degas, The Dancing Class, 1873-75



# Edgar Degas, The Tub, 1886 (Chalk Pastel)



# Mary Cassatt



# Mary Cassatt, The Bath, 1892

She had trained as a painter before moving to Europe to study masterworks in France and Italy. As a woman, she could not easily frequent the cafes with her male artist friends, and she was responsible for the care of her aging parents, who had moved to Paris to join her, two facts limiting her subject choices.

Because of these restrictions, Cassatt's subjects were principally women and children, whom she presented with genuine sentiment. Works such as "The Bath" show the tender relationship between a mother and child. Like Degas's "The Tub", the visual solidity of the mother and child contrasts with the flattened patterning of the wallpaper and rug.



# Contrast how Renoir and Cassatt view a mother and child!



# Mary Cassatt, Mother and Child, 1889



# Mary Cassatt, The Boating Party, 1893-94

