**Art Docent – Claude Monet- 1840-1926**

Monet was born in Paris France in 1840 and lived until he was 86- ***(show when he went to Paris, self portrait –p30, and old 36).*** When he was little his family moved to Le Havre on the sea and his father owned a grocery store that sold supplies to the sailors and shipping companies ***(show drawing of the coast)***. He was not a good student and spent most of his time drawing funny pictures- including some of his teachers, and soon people started paying him to draw caricatures, funny pictures of them. (***Show examples)***

Then he met Eugene Boudin who convinced him to start painting and believed that painting should be done **outside**, **not in studios** as most artists did. Monet went to study art in Paris and found other artists who liked painting outside and they founded the **Impressionist movement**.

Most painting at that time showed history, mythology or religion in clear, sharp and heroic in dark moody colors like this Delacroix. (***Show picture)***

But, Monet and his friends wanted to paint

* **colors, shadows and light as realistically** as possible, with a focus on sunlight, best done outside
* They liked to paint **ordinary scenes** like boats, rocks by the ocean or haystacks.
* They used **simple brush strokes of color** up close but if you step back, you see and have a feeling of being right there with the subject.
* Their depictions of **people weren´t grand** and were often unidentifiable
* He often painted many pictures of the **same thing at different times** of day and seasons of the year

He said “When you go out to paint, try to forget what objects you have before you, a tree, a house, a field or whatever. Just think, here´s a little square of blue, here´s an oblong of pink, here´s a streak of yellow, and paint it just as it looks to you, the exact color and shape…”

Monet **loved to paint water­**- He loved the way colors reflect in water and the special way that water makes clouds and sky look. He even had a boat that he used as a floating studio, sailing up and down rivers and stopping to paint wherever he liked. (***show painting by Manet of him-p 14)*** Monet wanted to be as close as he could to his subjects and sometimes had to tie his easel down so that the waves wouldn´t wash it away!

Monet's devotion to painting out of doors is illustrated by the famous story about, Women in the Garden (1866-67- ***show picture).*** It is 7 feet high and 5 feet wide and he had a trench dug in the garden so that the canvas could be raised or lowered by pulleys so that he could reach to paint it.  This painting had another significance for Monet – He used the same women as a model for all of the women in this painting, Camille and they fell in love and were married, and Monet continued to use his family as models for many of his works.

A newspaper writer called them Impressionists, which he got from Monet´s painting *Impression: Sunrise* (***show picture***- p 17, 1872)), which stuck. As another critic said “they don´t reproduce a landscape but rather convey the impression it makes on the viewer”

In his final years he was troubled by failing eyesight, but he painted until the end. He was enormously prolific and many major galleries have examples of his work.

This picture is called Bathers at La Grenouillere.

* Do you get a feeling of how the day felt? Hot or cool? What season? What time of day?
* How are the brushstrokes? Look at the water- what colors do you see?
* What other impressions or feelings do you have from the painting?

Project: Have them do an Impressionist style work with chalk on a dark piece of construction paper. Spray finished pictures with hairspray (outside) to set. Or use small pieces of torn overlapping tissue paper next to each other to create impressionist feeling…