

CLAUDE MONET & *LIGHT AND SHADOW*



The Magpie, Claude Monet (Public Domain)

Claude Monet is well known for his paintings of waterlilies, but he painted many different scenes and seasons, including the winter scene above called The Magpie. Monet was an **Impressionist** painter, impressionists liked painting everyday things outdoors, focusing on the use of light and color to create their paintings. Most paintings at the time were painted in studios, people liked portraits of kings or heroes, battle scenes or scenes from the bible. Impressionists wanted to paint the world around them, trying to capture the play of light quickly with thick color pigments and quick short brush strokes.

Monet was born in Paris, France on November 14, 1840. His family moved to a seaside town in France called Le Havre. When Monet began to draw, he drew caricatures (a cartoon like drawing of a person with larger overdone features) of people he saw coming into the harbor on ships. When he went out painting one day with a painter named Eugène Boudine, he found that he loved painting so much, he wanted to become a painter himself. He went to art school in Paris and met other painters who shared his style of painting. After many struggles, he and his friends showed their work together in Paris in 1870. One of Monet's paintings *Impression: Sunrise*, gained the most attention. A critic that did not like the painting style that Monet and the other artists used, wrote an article he titled, *Impressionists*. He didn't mean it in a kind way, but Monet and his friends started to call themselves impressionists anyway.

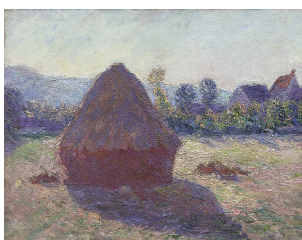
After struggles and heartaches for many years, Monet finally found success. It wasn't until he was in his forties, after a one-man exhibition in 1880, that he became a well known artist, selling his paintings

at high prices. He moved his family to Giverny, France, where he painted many of his famous works, such as the waterlilies series and the haystacks series. He loved his home in Giverny and lived there with his family until he died on December 5, 1926.

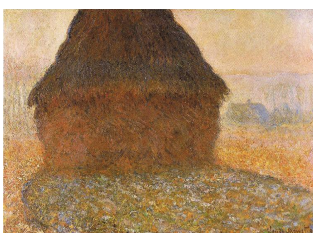
Monet was a master of color and he was a master of light! He created paintings that showed how the light fell and moved at different times of day, as in his haystack series:



“Haystacks at sunset, frosty weather”
© Public Domain

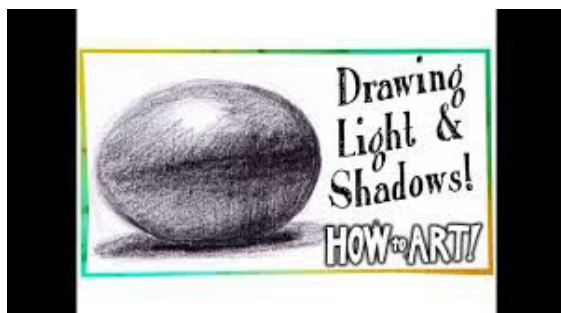


“Haystack in the evening sun”
© Public Domain



“Grainstack in sunshine”
© Public Domain

Magpie is also a great example of how he used light and shadow. Do some practicing yourself. Watch this video, How to Art – Drawing Shadows (And Light!) by Mary Doodles (YouTube):



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12mYmU3DI40>

Try the drawing exercise that she talks about. Take an egg or ball and shine a lamp or flash light at the object from one side. Draw what you see. Try to draw where the light falls on the object and where the shadows form.

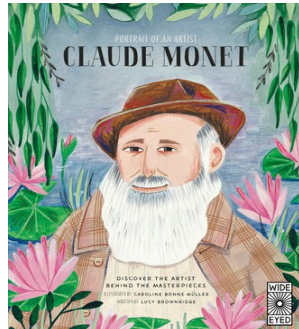
On a nice day, try the same exercise with the natural light of the sun. You can put an object in the snow or on the sidewalk and see where the light and shadows fall, or draw something that is already outside, a tree, a stone, a bush, paying attention to the light. Just like Monet, you can try the same scene at different times of day, to see how the light and shadows change!

To learn more about Claude Monet, watch this video:

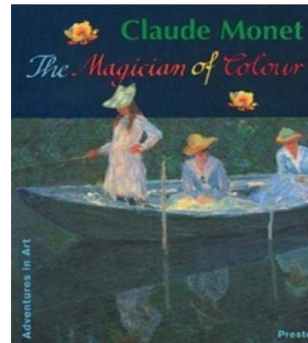
Intro to Claude Monet for Kids

https://youtu.be/_fsH2wfl1y54

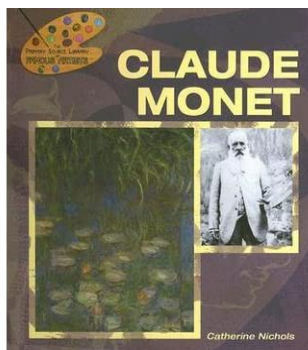
And check out these books from the library:



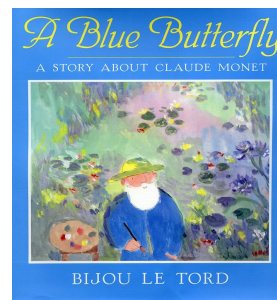
Portrait of an Artist
Claude Monet
by Lucy Brownridge



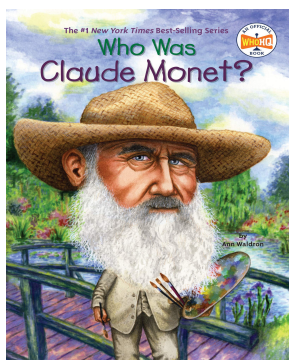
Claude Monet
The Magician of Color
by Stephan Koja



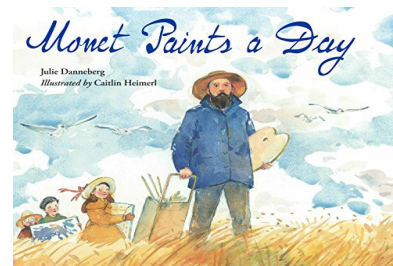
Claude Monet
by Catherine Nichols



A Blue Butterfly, A Story
About Claude Monet
by Bijou Le Tord



Who Was Claude Monet
by Ann Waldron



Monet Paints a Day
by Julie Danneberg