

MUSEUMS & ATTRACTIONS



Portrait of an Artist

Dive into the unmistakable art of Monet at a gorgeous new exhibition.

Tiffany Parks shares her preview.

This highly anticipated exhibit follows the entire artistic path of Claude Monet, from his earliest works, the famous caricatures of the late 1850s with which he earned his very first paychecks and became almost a celebrity in his hometown of Le Havre, to his last surprisingly modern depictions of weeping willows and water lilies, and everything in between. The works on display offer a vast picture of his artistic output, and include images of his children, such as *Portrait of Michel Monet as a Baby* (1878), his flower garden, like the celebrated *Water Lilies* (1916), and rural and urban

landscapes such as *Parliament. Reflections on the Thames* (1905) and the astoundingly modern *Japanese Bridge* (1918).

Guy de Maupassant's words upon discovering Monet's work illustrate just how groundbreaking and innovative it was in its time: "He was not a painter, really, but a hunter. He walked around, followed by children carrying his canvases, five or six of them representing the same subject at different times and with different lighting. He picked them up and put them down in turn, according to the changes in the sky. And the painter, facing his subject, would lie in wait

for the sun and shadows, capturing with a few brushstrokes the ray that appeared or the cloud that passed..."

Roughly 60 paintings, the personal favorites of the artist, the ones he kept in his beloved Giverny home, go on display beginning 19 October at the Vittoriano Complex. All works are on loan from the Musée Marmottan Monet in Paris, a museum that has assembled the most important nucleus of the works of the great French Impressionist, thanks to the donations by Monet's contemporary collectors and by his own son, Michel Monet.



CLAUDE MONET (1840-1926). VÉTHEUIL NELLA NEBBIA, 1879. OLIO SU TELA, 60X71 CM. PARIGI, MUSÉE MARMOTTAN MONET. © MUSÉE MARMOTTAN MONET, PARIS C BRIDGEMAN-GIRAUDON
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