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Monet—Last Survivor of the Old Guard



CLAUDE MONET, who is now eighty years of age, is the only remaining member of a little group of painters—Degas, Manet, Renoir and several others—known as the Master Impressionists. These men, fifty years ago, by their work, scandalized, shocked and amused the Parisian art world, but gradually won great fame, and ended by thoroughly revolutionizing modern painting. They absolutely refused to paint nature according to fixed rules or outworn conventions, congealed in form and devoid of colour but aimed to render in a wholly new way, the effects of the light, the vibration of colour and the ever changing quality of "atmosphere" in nature. They also insisted upon painting everything and anything which struck their fancy.

Monet, the master among masters, is a man without reproach. He has never made a concession; he has always been true to his ideals and convictions; he has suffered poverty, abuse and ridicule in the same proud and silent manner, as he today accepts the world's applause, fortune and fame.