

## POST-IMPRESSIONISM.

- Movement in France that represented both an extension of Impressionism and a rejection of that style's inherent limitations.
- It does not describe a single style or even one approach.
- The term Post-Impressionism was coined by the English art critic Roger Fry (1866-1934, in his exhibition *Manet and the Post-Impressionists*, at the Grafton Galleries in London in 1910.) for the work of such late 19th-century painters as Paul Cézanne, Georges Seurat, Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, and others.

All of these painters except van Gogh were French, and most of them began as Impressionists; each of them abandoned the style, however, to form his own highly personal art. Impressionism was based, in its strictest sense and as evident in the works of Monet, on the objective recording of nature in terms of the fugitive effects of colour and light. The Post-Impressionists rejected this limited aim in favour of more ambitious expression. They were indebted to the Impressionist manner in the use of pure, brilliant colour, its freedom from traditional subject matter, and its technique of defining form with evident brushstrokes of broken colour. The work of these painters formed a basis for several contemporary trends and for early 20th-century modernism.

- The Post-Impressionists often exhibited together, but, unlike the Impressionists, who began as a close-knit, convivial group, they painted mainly alone.
- They rejected the indifferent objectivity of Impressionism in favour of a more personal, spiritual expression.
- Some of the artists rejected naturalism outright, as an error of philosophical thought.
- They aimed for a simpler truth and purer aesthetic in art, and a connection with traditional values.
- Impressionist techniques were adapted, altered and transformed to create greater expression of particular ideas.
- These were sometimes connected with a desire for an escape from the industrialized European world and a search for simplicity and beauty, and Utopian ideals.

In general, Post-Impressionism led away from a naturalistic approach and toward the three major movements of early 20th-century art that superseded it: Fauvism, Expressionism, and Cubism, which sought to evoke ideas or emotion by moving away from figurative representation and simple optical impression.