

Artist: Claude Monet

Title: Water Lilies

Date: 1916

Location: France

The water-lily pond at Monet's home in Giverny, north-west of Paris, became the principal motif of Monet's later paintings. Filling the canvas, the surface of the pond becomes a world in itself, inspiring a sense of immersion in nature. Monet's observations of the changing patterns of light on the surface of the water become almost abstract. The paintings were not fully appreciated in Monet's lifetime, and when they were reassessed in 1950s, some critics viewed them as precursors of Abstract Expressionism.

Monet coined the term impressionism term even though he hated that term. He stated that he paints impressions not paintings. Therefore the impressionism movement started.

