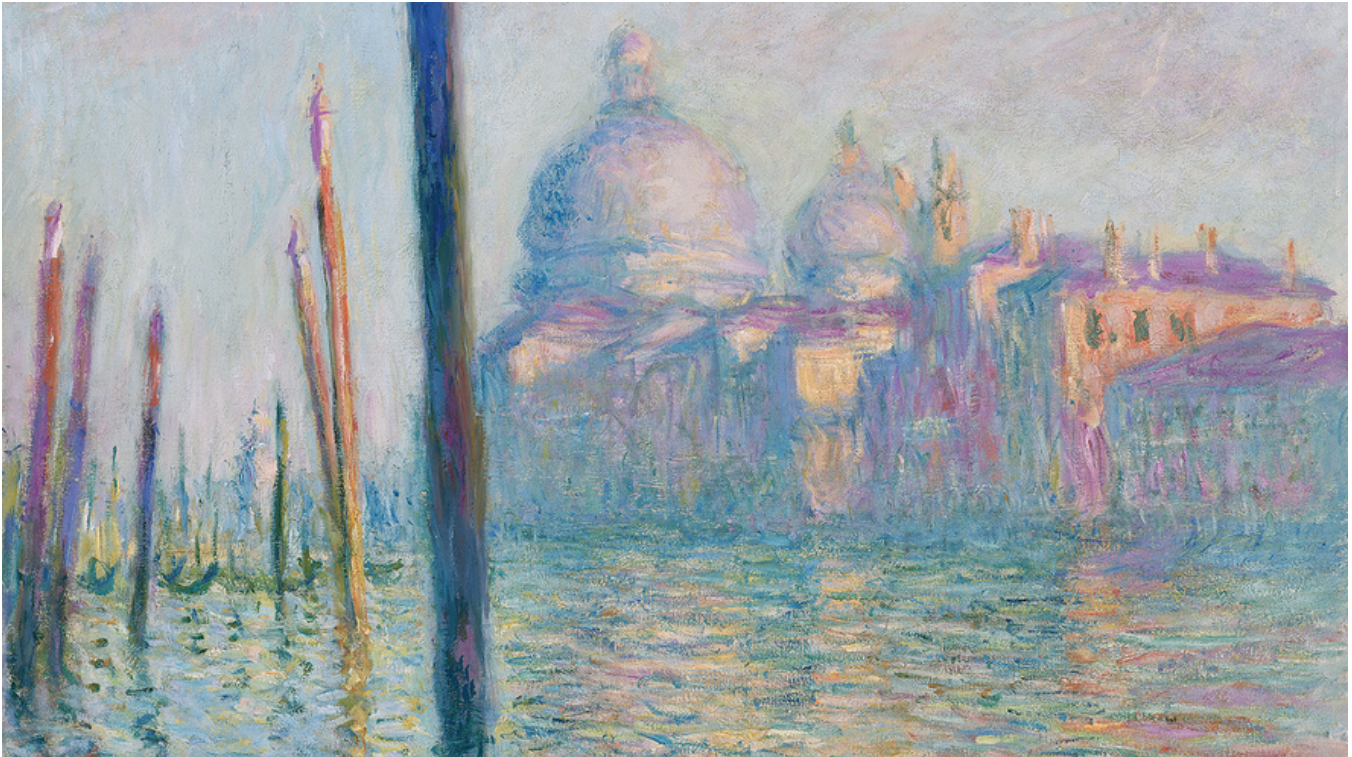


# All About Art: Painting evolved from cave images to colorful soup cans

By Encyclopaedia Britannica, adapted by Newsela staff on 05.02.17

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"The Grand Canal," by Impressionist painter Claude Monet. Impressionism is a style of painting that got its name because of a Monet painting called "Impression, Sunrise." He is known for using quick, short brushstrokes to create an image. As a result, he is often considered one of the fathers of Impressionism. Photo from: Wikimedia Commons.

Painting is one of the oldest art forms. It uses colors, shapes, lines and textures to express feelings, the world and imagination. Over the years, artists have painted many different subjects. Some paintings express religious ideas or tell stories. Others try to capture a feeling. Still others simply show pleasing images.

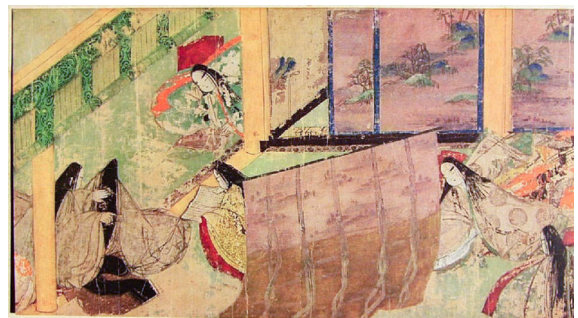
## Cave Paintings And Storytelling

Humans have been painting for thousands of years. The earliest paintings have been found on cave walls in France and Spain. Some are about 15,000 years old. They often show hunters and the animals they hunted. Painted pottery from about 5,000 years ago has been discovered in China and Iran. The ancient Egyptians painted their tombs with artwork.



In Europe in the Middle Ages, artists painted pictures from Bible stories. This period lasted from about 1,100 to 600 years ago. Many of these paintings still hang in churches and museums. Artists also painted small, miniature pictures in Bibles and other books.

In Asia, Chinese and Japanese artists have a long tradition of painting with ink and watercolors. Pictures are often brushed onto long scrolls of paper or silk. Many Chinese images show landscapes. Japanese scrolls often tell a story.



## **Renaissance Introduces Realism**

The Renaissance was a time of great creativity in Europe. This period lasted from about 800 to 500 years ago. Renaissance painters tried creating more realistic images. They carefully studied the world around them. They then tried new techniques to paint what they saw.

Leonardo da Vinci and other Italian artists introduced bold ideas during this time. They painted with natural shades of color and light. Their work inspired many artists across Europe.

## **Romanticism Period**

Some painters in the 1800s wanted to express their imagination in more personal ways. Their style is known as Romanticism. Many of these painters had a strong love of nature. For example, the English painter J.M.W. Turner painted beautiful sea scenes and landscapes that showed striking light and color.

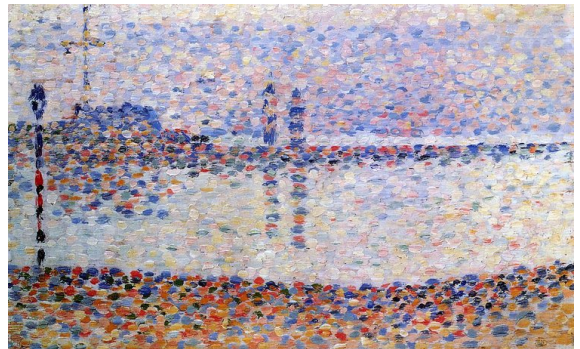


Other artists of that time painted in a style called Realism. They were interested in showing everyday life. Some believed their paintings and art could inspire people to improve the world.

### **Impressionism Leads To Abstract Art**

In the 1800s, a group of French artists developed Impressionism. This style highlighted light and color in nature. Two of the greatest Impressionist painters were Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Claude Monet.

Artists like Georges Seurat took Impressionism further. They painted scenes using dots of color. This technique is called Pointillism. The Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh preferred strong colors and thick brushstrokes. His paintings are masterpieces of deep colors and mood.



These painters paved the way for new styles. Many modern artists moved toward abstract art. This style does not always show objects, places or people as they look in real life. Abstract art does not represent anything found in the world. It uses colors, lines, form and shapes to inspire feelings.

## Picasso's Cubism And Dalí's Surrealism

Pablo Picasso was a famous painter of the 1900s. He helped develop a style called Cubism. In Cubism, objects or faces look unusual. They seem as if they have been pulled apart and laid flat.

The 1920s saw Salvador Dalí and Joan Miró, of Spain, make their mark. They mixed fantasy and reality. This style is called Surrealism. Surrealist painters sometimes showed familiar objects in odd places. For instance, a train might be chugging out of a fireplace.



## Painting In The U.S.

In the United States, the tradition of Realism lasted into the 1900s. Other artists, though, explored more personal styles. One was Georgia O'Keeffe. She is known for her paintings of animal skulls and close-ups of large flowers.

In the 1950s, Pop art took off. This style was made popular by painters like Andy Warhol. They painted everyday objects. But they showed them in surprising, often amusing ways. For example, Warhol painted colorful soup cans. Roy Lichtenstein created big, colorful comic-book scenes.

Painters are still exploring new ways of expressing their imaginations. They experiment with different materials and styles. In this way, they are creating the future of painting.

## Quiz

- 1 Select the sentence from the article that BEST explains why abstract art can be difficult for people to understand.
  - (A) Some believed their paintings and art could inspire people to improve the world.
  - (B) This style does not always show objects, places or people as they look in real life.
  - (C) Surrealist painters sometimes showed familiar objects in odd places.
  - (D) She is known for her paintings of animal skulls and close-ups of large flowers.
  
- 2 Which section from the article BEST helps the reader understand that paintings in Europe used to express religious ideas?
  - (A) "Cave Paintings And Storytelling"
  - (B) "Renaissance Introduces Realism"
  - (C) "Romanticism Period"
  - (D) "Impressionism Leads To Abstract Art"
  
- 3 Which of the following answer choices BEST describes the structure of the article?
  - (A) cause and effect
  - (B) problem and solution
  - (C) chronological order
  - (D) compare and contrast
  
- 4 According to the authors, how will artists' imaginations help with the future of painting?
  - (A) The artists will study famous painters to get ideas.
  - (B) The artists will explore new ways to create art.
  - (C) The artists will find things in nature that have never been painted.
  - (D) The artists will take more classes to experiment with paint.