

## Kids @ CAM – At Home Family Projects

### Spotlight on Art History

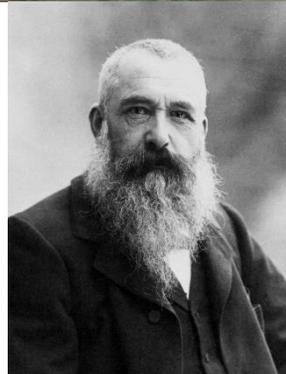
#### CLAUDE MONET

#### About the Artist:

“I am following Nature without being able to grasp her, I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers.” – Claude Monet

Claude Monet (1840 – 1926) was a French painter who was best known as a leader of the Impressionists, a group of painters who painted what they saw and felt rather than painting exactly what something looked like. The term Impressionism was inspired by Monet’s work ‘Impression: Sunrise’ (pictured below) because the painting gives the feeling of the sun rising without being realistic. Monet used short brush strokes and splashes of beautiful colors to give the impression of light and reflection in his work. He focused on form and light over realism in his works.

“One instant, one aspect of nature contains it all,” said Claude Monet, referring to his late masterpieces, the water landscapes that he produced towards the end of his career at his home in Giverny. The focal point of these paintings was the artist’s beloved flower garden, which featured a water garden and a smaller pond spanned by a Japanese footbridge. His Water Lilies series was created during this time.



## ART AT HOME – MONET GARDEN WATERCOLOR DRAWINGS

### What You Will Need:

- White Paper (cardstock or watercolor paper)
- Oil Pastels (you can substitute crayons)
- Watercolors
- Brushes
- Pencil with eraser
- Cups for water
- Paper towels for wiping off brushes

**Look at images of Monet's paintings before you begin (especially his paintings of nature, gardens and lily pads) for inspiration! You can also find inspiration by taking a walk or looking around your own yard.**

- Step 1 – With your pencil, lightly sketch a picture of a garden, a lily pond, or another outdoor scene that you would like to create.
- Step 2 – Begin by drawing with your oil pastels. You will want to trace the details of your picture (flowers, patches of grass, ripples in a pond, etc.) with the oil pastels and leave the background colors for your watercolors.
- Step 3 – Once you have drawn with nice thick lines, begin to watercolor in all the empty space. You will notice that the oil pastels push through the watercolor, so your designs remain clear and strong.
- Step 4 – Lay your painting somewhere to dry.
- Step 5 – Clean up your work area and thoroughly wash your brushes.

### Tips:

- Use your entire paper, being careful not to make the painting too wet (that may tear your paper).
- Make sure you have plenty of colorful lines and markings that you make with your oil pastels before you apply the watercolors. You want the oil pastels to be applied heavily so it pushes through the watercolors.
- Clean your paintbrushes in between different colors so that they do not get muddied.

### Questions to ask one another:

- What is the name of your painting?
- Tell a story about the place you have created. Where is it? Who or what lives there?
- Monet was inspired by the outdoors around him. What inspires you to make art?

### Follow Up Project Idea:

- Create another outdoor painting using the same method. This time, experiment with your oil pastel lines. Make some very thick, make some very thin and wispy, create swirls, etc. Notice how the watercolors interacts differently with different types of strokes.

