Color Your Own Impressionist Paintings
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Rendered by Marty Noble

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NOTE

In 1874 the Impressionists held their first exhibition, independent of the official Salon of the French Academy, which had continually rejected their works. The core group, composed of Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Alfred Sisley, Edouard Manet, Camille Pissarro, and Berthe Morisot, shared a similar set of ideals regarding painting techniques. Most importantly, they began to paint outdoors, or en plein air, to study the fleeting effects of light. This practice left them open to harsh ridicule from the more conservative mainstream artists running the Salon. The title of Monet's Impression: Sunrise ultimately gave Impressionism its name after one critic derisively referred to the work as a mere sketch or unfinished impression.

In addition to painting landscapes and modern life subjects, the Impressionist movement was characterized by broad, visible brushstrokes and the use of brilliant color to yield a light, airy painting. The Impressionists often worked together and held subsequent shows that continued to challenge the academic traditions in French painting. After the last Impressionist show in 1886, the movement dissolved, as the individual painters wished to move beyond its limitations. A tremendous influence on later artists, Impressionism revolutionized art history and enabled the development of modern art.

All thirty of the Impressionist paintings in this book are shown in full color on the inside front and back covers. Use this color scheme as a guide to create your own adaptation or change the colors to see the effects of color and tone on each painting. Captions identify the artist and title of the work, date of composition, medium employed, and the size of the original painting.
13. Vincent van Gogh (1853–1890), Agostina Segatori (1837–1888), Café in the Rain, 1887. Oil on canvas. 21 1/4 in. x 18 in.
21. Claude Monet (1840-1926). La Japonaise. Monet in Japan. Art Institute of Chicago. Oil on canvas. 91 cm x 56 cm
Oil on canvas. 36½ in. x 28¾ in.