

You are looking at a high resolution digital reproduction of a painting made by the French artist Claude Monet in 1899, titled *The Japanese Footbridge*.

How did Monet make his paintings?

Bienvenue! Welcome to the garden of Claude Monet. Monet was one of the leaders of the Impressionists, a group of innovative artists working mostly in France in the mid-to-late 1800s. The Impressionists wanted to capture the momentary effects of light and color on the landscape—the way the landscape looks different depending on the season, the weather, and the time of day. They worked quickly, often *en plein air*—outside, in the open air. This sometimes presented problems: artists had to cope with all kinds of conditions. And when the light changed, they might have to set one painting aside and work on another. Monet often worked in series, making several paintings of the same subject.

Monet's work, with its bright colors and bold brushstrokes, looked very different from the more polished style of painting accepted by the art academies of Paris at the time. But as Impressionism became more popular, Monet gained recognition. In 1883, Monet and his family were able to move to a large pink farmhouse in the village of Giverny, about fifty miles from Paris. He lived and painted there for the rest of his life.