

J.M.W. Turner-*Sea View*(c. mid-1820s)



Self-Portrait, oil on canvas, c. 1799



- A British painter/printmaker who dominated British Landscape painting throughout the first half of the 19th century.
- Turner's ambition was to confirm the status of landscape as a serious art form.
- The tendency of the use of color in Turner's paintings is the increasing light in tone. His usual preference is a brilliant palette dominated by chrome and cadmium yellows, vermillion, and white, which was ridiculed by critics as "yellow fever".
- He left behind more than 550 oil paintings, 2,000 watercolours, and 30,000 works on paper and was regarded as having elevated landscape painting to an eminence rivalling history painting.

Why is Turner's works considered as examples of abstraction?



Calais Pier-1803



Snowstorm-1842

- Calais Pier is an admirably realistic painting which depicts several ships on a rough sea. With dramatic use of light, shadow, and perspective, it pays careful attention to details: sails strained by the wind, a white seagull against a dark storm crowd. Waves, cloud, the horizon, boats, sails, and people are all clearly represented.
- Forty years later, in 1842, Turner in his late sixties took on a similar theme in the painting *Snowstorm*. In *Snowstorm*, figurative elements are so reduced as to be practically non-existent. Gone are the clearly delineated clouds, sky, and waves; the ships is merely suggested by the contour line of its mast. The distinction between sea and sky is barely perceptible, yet the viewer senses the towering masses of water, the sweep of wind and rain pounding the ship with terrible ferocity,
- Turner evokes an even stronger emotional response in *Snowstorm* than he did in *Calais Pier* without the help of refined details.
- Turner was one of the first artists to free painting from honest imitation of reality. Turner achieved this autonomy by handling paint in a new way: using more transparent oils and using color to create a shimmering effect. His work shows that removing figurative elements from a painting does not remove the painting's ability to recruit associations in the mind of the beholder.



“Two sailing boats tossed around convey the force of the wind and waves. They pale into insignificance, however, beneath the magnificent sky. A break in the dark clouds reveals a brilliant patch of sunlight which illuminates the distant coast. Turner made full use of the blue paper and body-colour to achieve a remarkable intensity of colour. He began to work on blue paper in the mid 1820s and this drawing was probably made around that time.” Quote from National Gallery of Scotland.

Sea View

Other Paintings from Turner



Fishermen at Sea(1796)



Rain, Steam, and Speed(1844)

A Poem by Turner

"Fallacies of Hope" (1812):

"Aloft all hands, strike the top-masts and belay;

Yon angry setting sun and fierce-edged clouds

Declare the Typhon's coming.

Before it sweeps your decks, throw overboard

The dead and dying - ne'er heed their chains

Hope, Hope, fallacious Hope!

Where is thy market now?"



The Slave Ship

Bibliography

- Bosko, Natalia. "Exploration of the Sky: The Skies Sketchbook by J.M.W. Turner." *Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada* 113, no. 4 (August 2019): 138–50.
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=137636541&site=ehost-live>.
- Wilton, Andrew. "Turner, J(oseph) M(allord) W(illiam)." *Grove Art Online*. 2003; Accessed 19 Feb. 2020.
<https://www.oxfordartonline.com/groveart/view/10.1093/gao/9781884446054.001.0001/oao-9781884446054-e-7000086656>.
- Faris, Wendy B. "The 'Dehumanization' of the Arts: J.M.W. Turner, Joseph Conrad, and the Advent of Modernism." *Comparative Literature* 41, no. 4 (Fall 1989): 305. doi:10.2307/1770721.
- Townsend, Joyce H. "The Materials of J.M.W. Turner: Pigments." *Studies in Conservation* 38, no. 4 (November 1993): 231–54. doi:10.2307/1506368.
- Miller, Michele L. "J.M.W. Turner's Ploughing Up Turnips, near Slough: The Cultivation of Cultural Dissent." *Art Bulletin* 77, no. 4 (December 1995): 572. doi:10.2307/3046137.
- Images: *Calais Pier*, The National Gallery of UK,
<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/joseph-mallord-william-turner-calais-pier>, accessed on Feb. 19th, 2020.
- *Snow Storm: Steam-Boat off a Harbour's Mouth*, wikipedia,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snow_Storm:_Steam-Boat_off_a_Harbour%27s_Mouth, accessed on Feb. 19th, 2020.
- *The Slave Ship*, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Slave_Ship, accessed on Feb. 19th, 2020.
- *Fishermen at Sea*, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._M._W._Turner, accessed on Feb. 19th, 2020.
- *Rain, Steam, and Speed*, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._M._W._Turner, accessed on Feb. 19th, 2020.
-