

Handout for Art Presentation

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2/20/2020

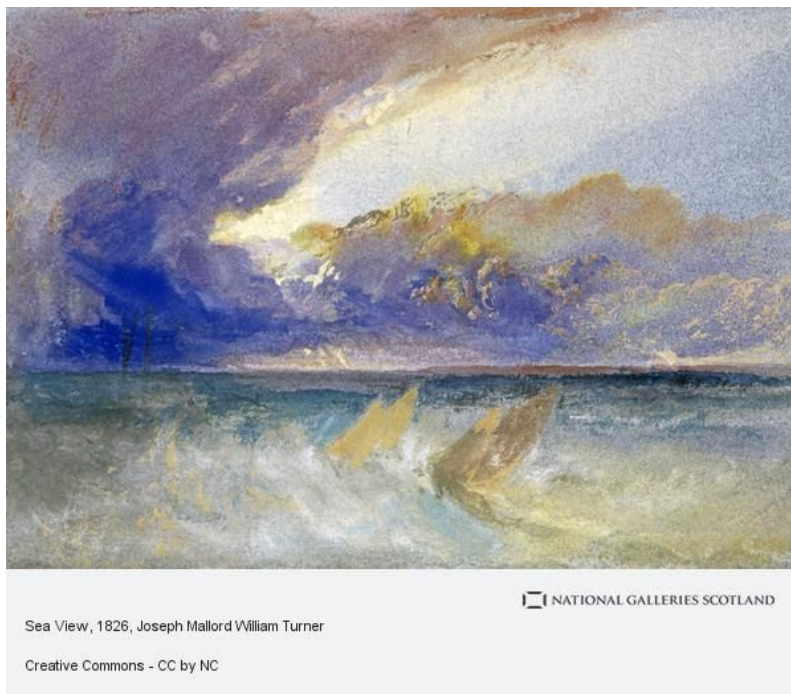
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- Biography of J.M.W. Turner:

Born in Maiden Lane, Covent Garden, London, to a modest lower-middle-class family, Turner lived in London all his life, retaining his Cockney accent(working class accent). Turner was perceived as a prodigy in art for his exceptional “wonderful range of mind”, as Constable noted on their first meeting. Turner studied at the Royal Academy of Arts from 1789, enrolling when he was 14 and started exhibiting work as he just turned 15. During his career as a student, Turner served as an architectural draftsman as well as a scene-painter at an opera house. Turner’s interest in landscape painting mostly came from two sources: the influence of Richard Wilson, who was considered a pioneer in British art of landscape, and his own experience with the mountains in Northern England and Wales. Turner opened his own gallery in Harley Street in 1804, but continued to send to the Royal Academy exhibitions. Besides revolutionizing landscape paintings, Turner also flexed on his creative muscles in mediums like poetry and printmaking. Intensely private, eccentric and reclusive, Turner was a controversial figure throughout his career. He did not marry, but fathered two daughters, Eveline and Georgiana , by his housekeeper.

- A sketch of the critical reception of the artists’ work.

From reading several scholarly articles, the general reception of Turner's work in art is quite positive. In "Exploration of the Sky: The Skies Sketchbook by J.M.W. Turner", Natalia Bosko acknowledges Turner's accomplishment in revolutionizing the art world by associating painting with a scientific perspective. Joyce H. Townsend shares a similar sentiment as Bosko in her paper "The Material of J.M.W. Miller: Pigments". By analyzing pigments of from palettes used by Turner by means of microscopy, microchemical analysis, etc., Townsend comes to the conclusion that Turner was using, or at least experimenting with, practically all the pigments known to be available at the time. On a different note, Michelle Miller praises Turner's depiction of the turnips-harvesting scene in English as a way to cultivate cultural dissent. Similarly, Wendy Faris talks about the ways in which Turner herald the advent of modernism in art and influence the writings of Joseph Conrad.



*Sea View*, J.M.W. Turner, National Galleries Scotland,

<https://www.nationalgalleries.org/art-and-artists/19237/sea-view>, accessed on Feb. 19th, 2020.