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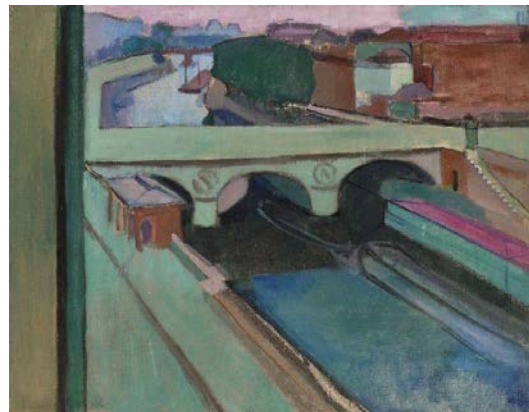
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SBMA to Premier Two Major Exhibitions of Impressionist and 19th-Century Art this Fall

The Impressionist Revolution: Monet to Matisse from the Dallas Museum of Art to Open October 5 at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art as the Only Western U.S. Venue Through the Holidays until January 25, 2026

Companion Exhibition Encore: 19th-Century French Art from the Santa Barbara Museum of Art to Include Four Monet Paintings Shown Together for the First Time



Left: Claude Monet, *The Water Lily Pond (Clouds)*, 1903. Oil on canvas. Dallas Museum of Art, The Eugene and Margaret McDermott Art Fund, Inc., bequest of Mrs. Eugene McDermott in honor of Nancy Hamon, 2019.67.13.McD. **Right:** Henri Matisse, *Pont Saint-Michel*, 1901. Oil on canvas. Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Bequest of Wright S. Ludington © 2025 Succession H. Matisse / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

October 2, 2025 — The Santa Barbara Museum of Art (SBMA) is putting the finishing touches on two major exhibitions of Impressionist and 19th-century art, among the most popular and beautiful art ever created. Opening to the public on Sunday, October 5, and running through January 25, 2026, ***The Impressionist Revolution: Monet to Matisse from the Dallas Museum of Art*** explores the rebellious origins of the independent artist collective known as the Impressionists and the

revolutionary course they charted for modern art. The exhibition features a rich array of paintings, including exquisite examples by Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh, Paul Gauguin, Henri Matisse, Piet Mondrian, Berthe Morisot, and Edvard Munch, that tell the story of a radical group of artists who challenged the status quo and won, changing art forever. The original version of the exhibition debuted at the DMA in February 2024. It was then presented in Mexico City at the Museo del Palacio de Bellas Artes (Museum of the Palace of Fine Arts) through July 2025. The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is the only venue in the Western U.S. to host *The Impressionist Revolution: Monet to Matisse from the Dallas Museum of Art* until January 2026.

A related exhibition, ***Encore: 19th-Century French Art from the Santa Barbara Museum of Art***, has more than 50 artworks from the SBMA's collection on view. Using 19th-century paintings and photographs, the exhibition takes you on a virtual tour of Parisian sites, such as Notre-Dame Cathedral and the Eiffel Tower, but also to the famed French countryside, the cliffs of Normandy, lush farms, and to the places these artists traveled, such as London, the Impressionists' second city. This exhibition both recreates the milieu of these artists and reveals the breadth and importance of the Museum's vast collection. Tickets to both special exhibitions are on sale now at <https://www.sbma.net/ticketing/ir-encore-2025>.

"The Impressionist Revolution: Monet to Matisse from the Dallas Museum of Art at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art channels the daring spirit of the artists who, in 1874, broke away from the Academy and upended the rules of their day," states Amada Cruz, Eichholz Foundation Director of SBMA. "Our intimate galleries invite careful looking and focus on these extraordinary works. The subtle tonalities in the vigorously applied paint reach across time. We are seeing as the artists saw. We are so happy to bring *The Impressionist Revolution* and the exceptional *Encore* exhibitions to the residents of Santa Barbara and the region."

The Impressionist Revolution: Monet to Matisse from the Dallas Museum of Art is told entirely through the exceptional holdings of the Dallas Museum of Art. The Impressionists broke with tradition in both how and what they painted, redefining what then constituted cutting-edge contemporary art. The unique innovations of its core members, such as Monet, Degas, and Morisot, set the foundation against which following generations of avant-garde artists reacted, from Gauguin and Van Gogh to Mondrian and Matisse. Following closely after the 150th anniversary of the first Impressionist exhibition, *The Impressionist Revolution* invites visitors reconsider how these now beloved artists as the scandalous renegades they at one time were, as well as the considerable impact they had on 20th-century art. This major exhibition has been curated by Nicole R. Myers, Ph.D., Chief Curatorial and Research Officer and The Barbara Thomas Lemmon Senior Curator of European Art, Dallas Museum of Art. The presentation in Santa Barbara is coordinated

by James Glisson, Ph.D., Chief Curator, Santa Barbara Museum of Art. The exhibition catalogue is published by the Dallas Museum of Art and distributed by Yale University Press.

“While the Impressionists are well known and widely popular today, many people will be surprised to learn that there was little appreciation or market for their work until well after their last group show in 1886,” notes Dr. Myers, a recognized specialist in 19th-century French art, “Breaking with tradition in both how and what they painted, as well as how they showed their work, the Impressionists redefined what constituted cutting-edge contemporary art at great personal and financial risk. *The Impressionist Revolution* invites you to reconsider these now beloved artists as the scandalous renegades they were and the considerable impact they made on 20th-century art.”

The exhibition is organized into five thematic sections including: “Rebels with a Cause,” which details the beginnings of the Impressionist movement and which examines Impressionist depictions of life in a rapidly modernizing world; “Field Notes,” which explores the Impressionists’ radical approach to painting techniques and materials; “Weird Science,” which showcases the invention of Chromo-Luminarism, known today as Pointillism, which pushed Impressionism to its scientific ends; “Side Effects,” which explores the backlash against Impressionism’s main tenets by a younger generation of artists who prioritized emotions, ideas and personal expression over purely optical impressions; and “Ever After,” which traces the far-reaching influence of Impressionism into the 20th century, offering a glimpse into some of the bold and innovative movements it inspired.

Even for visitors who might be familiar with some of the DMA’s iconic Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, and Modern European paintings, Dr. Myers points out that it will be a new experience: “There’s a special thrill in seeing beloved works of art in a whole new light. Many of the paintings in this incredible exhibition were cleaned especially for the occasion, and the transformation is nothing short of breathtaking. Seeing these works in their renewed brilliance is like meeting them for the first time—colors shimmer, details emerge, and the brushstrokes feel as fresh as the day the paint dried.”

The Impressionist Revolution: Monet to Matisse from the Dallas Museum of Art is organized by the Dallas Museum of Art.



Encore: 19th-Century French Art from the Santa Barbara Museum of Art takes a different tack by focusing on locations in Paris, the French countryside, and abroad, during a period when France was the center of the art world. Paintings from SBMA’s collection, including four Monets, a Matisse, a Sisley, a Caillebotte, and a Morisot painting and pastel, are combined with photographs,

posters, and sheet music covers to bring the visual culture—what everyday people saw and experienced—back to life. This exhibition draws on SBMA’s sizable holdings in 19th-century French caricatures, magazines, posters, and photographs.

“If the presentation of *The Impressionist Revolution* is an intimate revelation, then *Encore* is sprawling and energetic,” observes James Glisson, SBMA Chief Curator. “With the Santa Barbara Museum of Art’s extraordinary collection as a guide, visitors are invited to take a virtual tour of Paris and across France with a final stop in London, the second city of the Impressionists.”

To set the tone on entering the galleries, visitors are greeted by a hot pink and purple map of Paris, a jarring combination that, in fact, appears in many of the paintings on display in *The Impressionist Revolution* and *Encore*. There is also a short film woven from some of the 2500 artworks in SBMA’s collection, featuring works made in France between 1850 and 1950, a period when artists from across the globe converged on Paris, the capital of the art world. The film’s syncopated rhythms and brisk music by Daniel-François-Esprit Auber and Giacomo Meyerbeer distill the excitement of the French capital during the period, with its World’s Fairs, exhibitions, and bustling department stores.

After passing by the map and film, the visitor is greeted with a section about Montmartre, the bohemian enclave on the edges of Paris filled with studios, bars, and dance halls that stayed open into the wee hours, where modern art was born. This is juxtaposed with a section on the Louvre as well as artists’ studios, including an unusual painting by Paul-Joseph-Victor Dargaud of the Statue of Liberty under construction. Next, the visitor journeys to the heart of Paris—Île de la Cité and Notre-Dame—guided by SBMA’s early, vibrantly colored Matisse, depicting the view from his studio window. Following the path of the Seine, the journey continues from the city into the suburbs and eventually into the agricultural areas along the river. The exhibition concludes with a journey across northern France, from Normandy, the favored summer retreat of Parisians, to Brittany, home at the time to a thriving Gaelic culture, and finally to London, where Monet’s views of the River Thames, bathed in light and fog, bring the exhibition to a close. *Encore* is co-curated by James Glisson, SBMA Chief Curator; Andrew Witte, SBMA Curatorial Assistant of Photography and New Media; and Charles Wylie, former SBMA Curator of Photography and New Media.

Pop-Up Museum Store

A pop-up store reminiscent of a bustling French marketplace will feature an assortment of merchandise inspired by *The Impressionist Revolution* and *Encore*. Next to the store, there will be a lounge area for visitors to peruse publications and catch their breath. A Family Guide to both exhibitions will be available upon entry to the galleries.

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Opening Weekend will feature a range of events:

- ***The First Impression: Paris by Night* opening celebration** will take place on **Saturday, October 4 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm** and will kick off the festivities with early access to the special exhibitions, flowing champagne, hors d'oeuvres, live music and photo booths with a French flair. Tickets are \$1000 per person and are available at www.sbma.net/onc. Proceeds support the Museum exhibition program and related educational programming.
 - **Member Preview Morning** will take place on **Sunday, October 5 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm** prior to the public opening. Activities relating to Impressionism are planned for the whole family in the Art Learning Lab (ALL).
 - **That 1870s Show: In Conversation with Curator Nicole R. Myers** will take place on **Sunday, October 5 from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm**. This special lecture from Dr. Nicole R. Myers, the Chief Curatorial and Research Officer and The Barbara Thomas Lemmon Senior Curator of European Art at the Dallas Museum of Art, and curator of *The Impressionist Revolution: Monet to Matisse from the Dallas Museum of Art*. Join Myers as she reveals the scandalous origins of the Impressionist collective and reconsiders its beloved artists as the rebellious renegades they once were.
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The Impressionist Revolution: Monet to Matisse from the Dallas Museum of Art is made possible through the generosity of The Dana and Albert R. Broccoli Charitable Foundation, Manitou Fund — Nora McNeely Hurley and Michael Hurley, SBMA Ambassadors, and Geof and Laura Wyatt. Additional support is provided by Christine and Michael Holland, Carol and Michael Linn, Nancy and Doug Norberg; Richard and Melanie De Schutter, Kate Feldstein, Priscilla Gaines, Judith Little, Carol MacCorkle, Mimi Michaelis, Beth and George Wood; Jane and Ken Anderson, Jane Eagleton, Rosemary and Nicholas Mutton, Ruth & Joseph C. Reed Foundation for the Arts, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Foundation, and The Zegar Family Fund.

Encore: 19th-Century French Art from the Santa Barbara Museum of Art is made possible through the generosity of The Dana and Albert R. Broccoli Charitable Foundation, SBMA PhotoFutures, Gwen and Henry Baker, and Anonymous.

Thanks to our Media Sponsor: **LAist**, and to our In-Kind Sponsor: **Visit Santa Barbara**.

Public Programs

A full slate of public programs, conversations, and performances will be presented during the run of the exhibitions. And a range of educational activities, school tours, group tours and community partnerships can be found at SBMA.net.

Art Learning Lab

1st Thursdays 5 – 7pm | Saturdays & Sundays 12 – 4 pm

The Art Learning Lab (ALL) is a drop-in space for art making that is free and accessible to all on weekends and Thursdays. The Lab's three studios serve as classrooms for creative exploration and collaboration for visiting school and community groups, adult studio workshops, after-school classes and camps. ALL includes a street-side gallery for family-friendly art installations by students participating in the Museum's programs and our community partners.

The Impressionist Revolution and *Encore* Art Learning Lab activities include:

- Pick Your Palette: Color and Light
- Still Life Sketching Station
- Postcards to Paris Writing Desk

Intimate Impressions: Art, Wine, and Music

Friday, November 7

3:45 pm — 6:00 pm

Enjoy time in the exhibitions *The Impressionist Revolution: Monet to Matisse from the Dallas Museum of Art* and *Encore: 19th-Century French Art from the Santa Barbara Museum of Art*, then stroll in best flaneur style to Petit Valentien Restaurant transformed for the evening into a bespoke bohemian boîte. Sample wines selected by Renegade Wines and paired with works in the exhibition as you enjoy bistro inspired bites. Art, wine, and music intersect during this one-of-a-kind evening when Sommelier, songwriter, and New York based chanteuse Kristen Lee Sergeant, accompanied by Josh Nelson on piano, perform original compositions previewing her forthcoming projects, *Intoxication* and *Beyond the Frame*.

Adult Art Studio Class *En Plein Air* at Lotusland

Saturday, November 8

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Artists of all levels are invited to paint *en plein air* in the gardens inspired by works currently on view in *The Impressionist Revolution* and *Encore*. Museum Teaching Artist Nicola Ghersen will lead an inspiring

afternoon of exploring the painting techniques and rebellious spirit of these radical visionary artists. This program is a collaboration between the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and Lotusland.

In Conversation with Paul Hayes Tucker

Saturday, December 6

12:00 pm — 1:30 pm

Join us for a conversation with Paul Hayes Tucker, influential art historian, curator, and author. Hailed by *Time Magazine* as one of America's foremost authorities on Claude Monet and Impressionism, Tucker will discuss the impact and influence of the Impressionist movement in the context of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art's superb collection of 19th-century French art. Tucker has authored 11 noteworthy books, including seminal titles such as *Monet at Argenteuil* (1982), *Claude Monet: Life and Art* (1995), and *Monet in the 20th Century* (1998). Tucker also served as a professor for over 40 years, teaching at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and held positions at UC Santa Barbara, Williams College, and Yale University.

See, Hear: Performance at the Intersection of Impressionist Art and Music

Sunday, January 11, 2026

2:30 pm, 3:15 pm, and 4:00 pm

Talented young local musicians selected by the Santa Barbara Symphony's master pianist Natasha Kislenco will perform music by Debussy, Poulenc, Faure and others in the Museum galleries. The performance will include special appearances by UCSB professors Jennifer Kloetzel, cello, and Jessica Guideri, violin, performing the brilliant and virtuosic *Piano Trio* by Maurice Ravel.

Sebastian Smee Lecture

Sunday, January 18, 2026

2:30 pm — 4:00 pm

In an afternoon of reading and conversation, Pulitzer Prize-winner Sebastian Smee, art critic for *The Washington Post*, shares with us his fresh look at the "origin story" and the tragic time in Paris which he argues led to the "Impressionist Revolution." His much lauded and at times hotly debated premise, told with both knowledge and panache, is at the center of *Paris in Ruins: Love, War, and the Birth of Impressionism*.

Ticketing

Admission to both special exhibitions requires an additional fee and timed tickets. Members receive access to Member Preview Morning and one complimentary free entry and priority access. Tickets: \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors, and \$21 for youth (6 to 17 years old); students, teachers and children are free. More details available at <https://www.sbma.net/ticketing/ir-encore-2025>.

Daily public docent tours as well as special request tours for groups will be offered throughout the run of the exhibition and can be arranged at SBMA.net.

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is one of the finest Museums on the West Coast and is celebrated for the superb quality of its permanent collection. Its mission is to integrate art into the lives of people through internationally recognized exhibitions and special programs, as well as the thoughtful presentation of its permanent collection

Santa Barbara Museum of Art
1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA
Open Tuesday – Sunday 11 am to 5 pm, 1st Thursdays 5 – 8 pm
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