

Impressionism

- "A highly personal manner of writing in which the author presents materials as they appear to an individual temperament at a precise moment and from a particular vantage point rather than as they are presumed to be in actuality."
- Writers borrowed the term from painters who revolted against conventional beliefs about art and who believed that "it was more important to retain the impressions that an object makes on the artist than to present the appearance of that object by precise detail and careful, realistic finish."
- "The objective of the impressionist, then, is to present material not as it is to the objective observer but as it is *seen* or *felt* to be by the impressionist or a character in a single moment."
- Impressionists tried to capture an image that the camera could not. They aimed for what Monet called "instantaneity" and focused on the transient effects of light and color.

Harmon, William, and C. Hugh Holman. "Impressionism." *A Handbook to Literature*. 8th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2000. 266.