

hits Portland

strength. I know very well in advance that you will find my pictures perfect...but that's indifferent to me, since I know they are very bad and am sure of it."

These late paintings span the final two decades of the artist's life, tracing his career from when he still painted scenes from his Giverny estate in France with waterlilies and willows to the last years where his work bordered the abstract.

Monet not only founded impressionistic painting, he made way for the artists and painting styles of the future. Viewing at the exhibit, it appears that Monet was well ahead of his time. Some pieces seem as though they could be on display at the New York Modern Art Museum.

Other components of the exhibit are worth exploring as well. Upon entering the museum, one finds a pair of hazy eyeglasses and a messy palette in a glass case. Unworn since Monet's death in 1926, the glasses are in a poor state, and considering that Monet could barely see, they make an ironic statement.

Further inside one will encounter works done by other artists influential of the time period. Museum director John Buchanan has organized with Monet's later works an "Essay on Impressionism" that shows paintings by other artists of the day who were associated with Impressionism. They include

Toulouse-Lautrec, Camille Pissarro and Mary Cassatt.

Another room contains the art that was popular in France during the years of Monet, differing from work done by impressionists. The paintings are much more distinct and formal in comparison with Monet and other painters, making it plain to see why Monet was such a radical pioneer in the world of painting.

The paintings are on loan from Paris and will make their way across the United States. The Portland Art Museum's exhibit is a rare opportunity to view, for it is only appearing in two other museums this year.

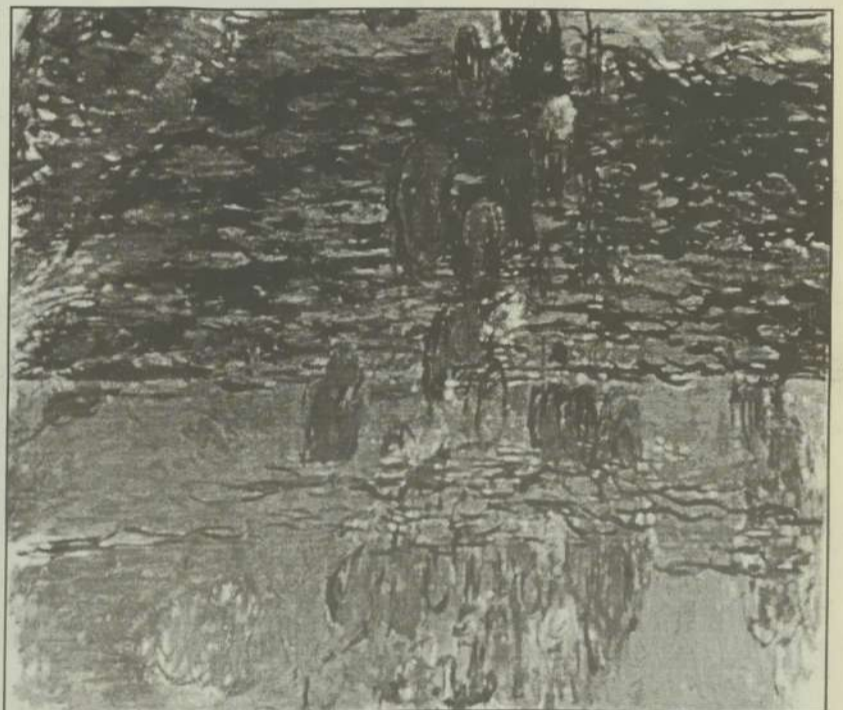
"This exhibition contains some of the most extraordinary paintings of Monet's career," said Buchanan. "The intense color and abstract quality of the late paintings allow us to experience both Monet's cherished surroundings and his continuous evolution as an artist."

A trip to the Portland Art Museum is definitely worthwhile. You may know very little going in, but will leave with a new perspective on the monumental Monet, and with much more insight.

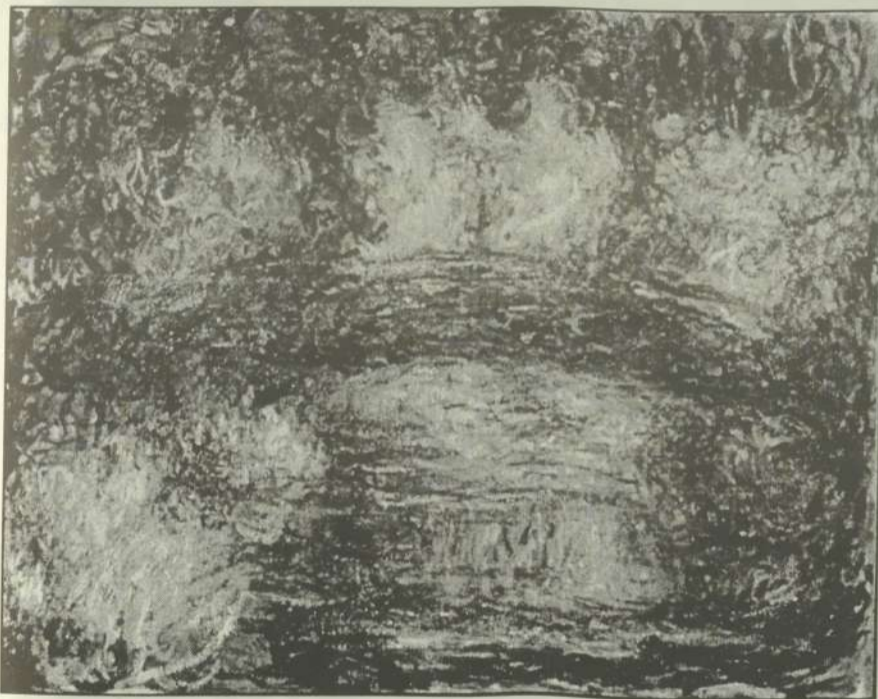
Venturing into the world of Impressionism is an experience. It is a short-lived experience, but much cheaper than an actual trip to Paris. After all, when is the next time that Monet will be in your hometown?



The house from the Rose Garden (La Masion vue du jardin aux roses) 1922-1924



Water Lilies (Nymphéas) 1916-1919



The Japanese Footbridge (Le Pont japonais), 1918-1919

Photos courtesy of the Portland Art Museum



Wisteria (Glycines), 1919-1920