

## L'Impressionnisme et la Politique (Giverny, 23 May 14)

Musée des impressionnismes Giverny, May 23, 2014

Nolan Jimbo

### L'Impressionnisme et la Politique

Some of the most challenging readings of French Impressionism have claimed that this movement was intrinsically political; that politics, in particular class relationships, lay at its core. Anglo-Saxon scholarship in particular has highlighted the strong political implications of the French Impressionist movement in the 1870s, and linked the group's dissolution in the 1880s to its retreat from politics. The scenes of bourgeois private and urban entertainment produced by American artists in an Impressionist style one generation later seem patently unconcerned with politics. Does the transformation of French Impressionism into an international style evacuate all possible forms of social critique at a moment when the art market itself was becoming international? Was the political voice of American Impressionism only to be heard in claims to "picture the nation" or were other, perhaps more subtle, messages at work?

### SCHEDULE:

10:30

Opening and welcome

Marina Ferretti, Musée des impressionnismes Giverny

Veerle Thielemans, Terra Foundation for American Art

Session 1: Facing History

Moderator: Frances Fowle, Senior Curator, Scottish National Gallery,  
and Reader, University of Edinburgh

10:45-11:25

"Paris in the Age of Impressionism: From the Second Empire to the Dreyfus Affair"

Philip Nord, Rosengarten Professor of Modern and Contemporary History,  
Princeton University

11:25-12:05

"La 'Révolution de cathédrales' de Claude Monet, une 'révolution

symbolique"

Ségolène Le Men, Professeur d'histoire de l'art, Université Paris  
Ouest Nanterre La Défense, France

12:05-12:45

"Monet and the Wreckage of History"

André Dombrowski, Assistant Professor, University of Pennsylvania

12:45-14:00

Break

Session 2: Negotiating the Present

Moderator: Katherine Bourguignon, Associate Curator, Terra Foundation  
for American Art

14:00-14:40

"Impressionist Lights: Paintings and the Transatlantic Politics of  
Electric Illumination"

S. Hollis Clayson, Professor of Art History and History, Northwestern  
University

14:40-15:20

"Mary Cassatt's Women: Politics and Art"

Judith Barter, Field-McCormick Chair and Curator of American Art, The  
Art Institute of Chicago

More information available at:

<http://www.terraamericanart.org/events/event/symposium-limpressionnisme-et-la-politique/>

Buses to and from Giverny from Paris and from Rouen will be provided  
free of charge on a first-come first-served basis. Bus reservation is  
required via [information@terraamericanart.eu](mailto:information@terraamericanart.eu). Buses will depart from  
Paris and Rouen at 8:30, arrival at Giverny 10:00. Departure from  
Giverny at 5:45, arrival in Paris and Rouen at 7:15.

Simultaneous translation will be provided with the support of the  
Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication, Délégation générale à  
la langue française et aux langues de France.

Organized by the Terra Foundation for American Art, the Musée des  
Impressionismes Giverny, and Université Paris Ouest-La Défense,  
Laboratoire Histoire des arts et représentations, this symposium will  
be held in conjunction with the exhibition L'Impressionnisme et les  
Américains, on show at the museum until June 28, 2014.

Musée des Impressionismes Giverny | 99 rue Claude Monet |  
27620 Giverny | <http://www.mdig.fr>

Reference:

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