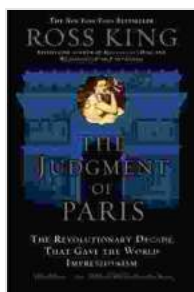


The Revolutionary Decade That Gave The World Impressionism

The 1860s witnessed a remarkable transformation in the art world, as a group of young artists known as the Impressionists challenged the prevailing conventions and paved the way for a new era of artistic expression. This revolutionary decade marked the birth of Impressionism, a movement that would forever change the course of art history.



The Judgment of Paris: The Revolutionary Decade that Gave the World Impressionism by Ross King

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 6799 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 474 pages
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Breaking Away from Tradition

Prior to the 1860s, academic painting was the dominant force in the art world, characterized by its emphasis on historical, religious, and mythological subjects depicted with meticulous detail. However, a growing number of artists began to question the rigid rules and artificiality of academic painting. They sought to break free from the confines of tradition

and capture the fleeting moments of everyday life with greater realism and spontaneity.

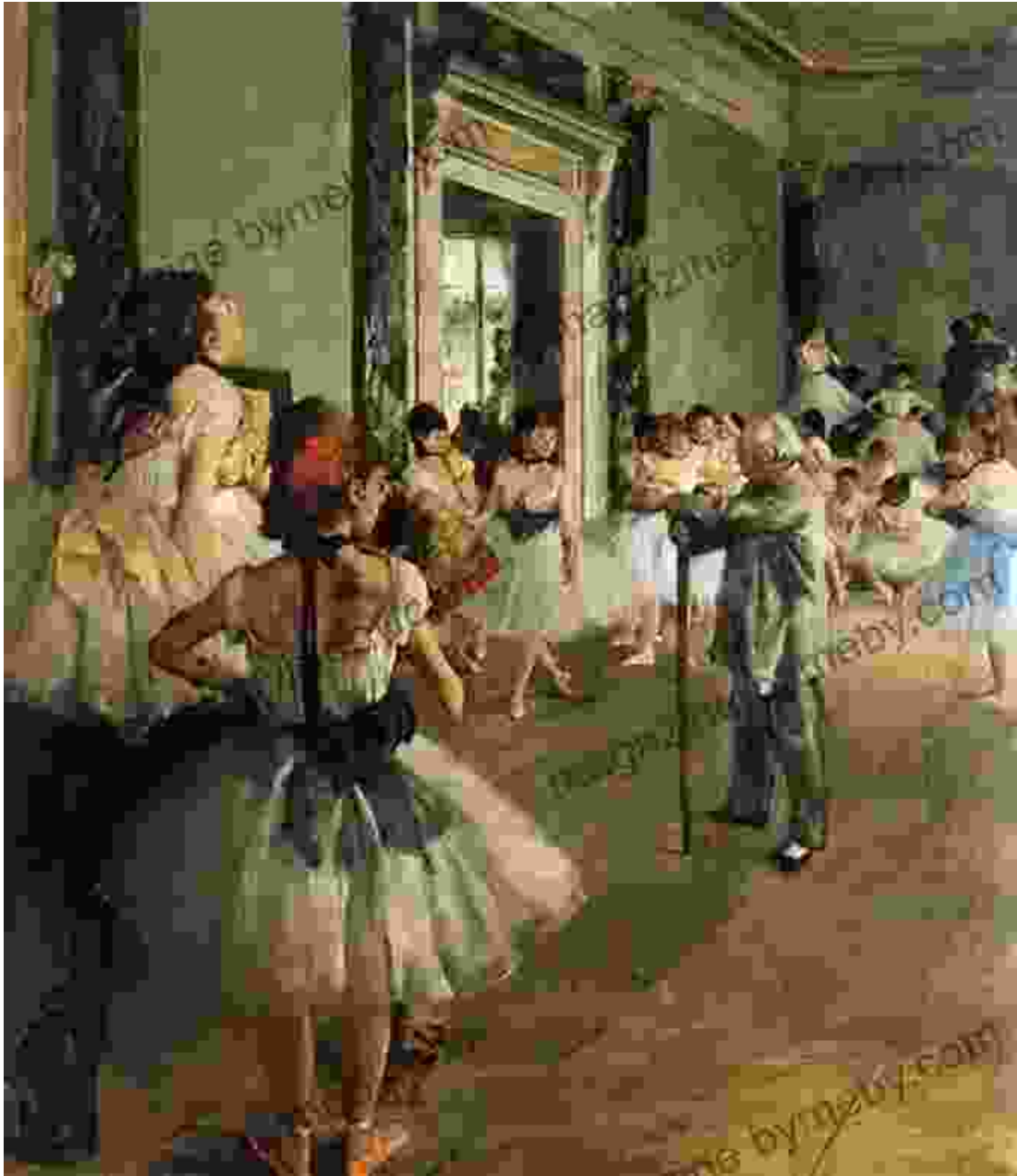
Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, Edgar Degas, Édouard Manet, Berthe Morisot, and Mary Cassatt were among the pioneering figures of Impressionism. These artists shared a common desire to paint directly from nature, capturing the effects of light and atmosphere on their surroundings. They abandoned the traditional practice of using dark, earthy colors, opting instead for a vibrant palette of bright, pure hues.



Painting the Modern World

The Impressionists were fascinated by the rapidly changing world around them. They depicted scenes of urban life, the countryside, and the leisure activities of the bourgeoisie. Their paintings celebrated the beauty of the ordinary and the transient, capturing the essence of the modern era.

One of the key elements of Impressionism was the use of loose, visible brushstrokes. This technique allowed the artists to convey a sense of movement and immediacy in their paintings. They also experimented with different ways of applying paint, such as impasto, where thick layers of paint were applied to create a textured surface.



Edgar Degas, *Dance Class* (1871-74)

The Salon des Refusés

In 1863, the Impressionists were refused entry to the prestigious Paris Salon, the official exhibition of the French Academy of Fine Arts.

Undeterred, they organized their own exhibition, known as the Salon des

Refusés (Salon of the Rejected). This event became a watershed moment in the history of Impressionism, giving the group a platform to showcase their revolutionary works to the public.

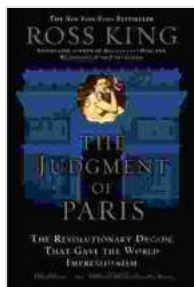
The Salon des Refusés was a critical and commercial failure, but it drew attention to the new artistic movement. Critics vehemently attacked the Impressionists' paintings, deriding them as unfinished and crude. However, a few influential supporters, such as the art critic Jules-Antoine Castagnary, recognized the significance of their work and defended them against their detractors.



Legacy of Impressionism

Despite the initial resistance, Impressionism gradually gained acceptance and became one of the most influential art movements in history. The Impressionists' innovative techniques and focus on the modern world paved the way for subsequent artistic movements, such as Post-Impressionism, Expressionism, and Fauvism.

Today, the works of the Impressionists are celebrated for their beauty, originality, and enduring appeal. They continue to inspire and captivate audiences around the world, reminding us of the transformative power of art and its ability to reflect the changing times.



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