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ART 316.01

20 November 2022

Musée Marmottan Monet: A Gallery Review

Impressionism: my greatest muse. It has been a grand inspiration of mine since I learned of it, and, when examining any paintings I've done, I'd like to consider them reminiscent of that time. Because of this, I am no stranger to the name of many impressionist and post-impressionist artists, such as Claude Monet. His usage of colors and brush strokes for texture has always amazed me. When considering an artist I'd never get tired of viewing, it's him that comes to mind. Courtesy of the Joy of Museum's virtual tours, I indulged myself in the collection of Monet's works held by the Musée Marmottan Monet, a gallery located in Paris, France.

I am a big fan of this gallery for multiple reasons. My initial gut-reaction is joy because of the works I recognize, such as *Stacks of Wheat (End of Day; Summer)*, *Waterlilies*, and *Sunrise*. His usage of oil paints in such a quick manner versus how others take their sweet time adorning the canvas with all these desaturated details is so reassuring because I use mostly acrylic paints, known for

its quick drying times. He uses colors more saturated than others did in the past. Although this wasn't unusual for the impressionist style, it was still new to him.

When asked to select a favorite work from this museum's specific collection, I find myself a touch disappointed because, while these pieces are wonderful, the piece of his I truly love is one from his *Gardens of Giverny* series, that I suppose they didn't get, titled *The Artist's Garden at Giverny*. Not only do I enjoy the saturation and composition of this work, I also have a sentimental tie to it, courtesy of my father.. If I were to pick a runner up, however, I'd still favor his depiction of flowers from a distance. This gallery has his *Waterlilies* series, and this is where you'd find my favorite of this specific set of works: *The Waterlily Pond*. Much like *The Artist's Garden at Giverny*, he uses lots of saturated colors for flora and fauna. It still scratches that itch. Again, there's that texture that I enjoy so much about Monet's style that I feel others of his time and after didn't quite achieve, and the saturation intensifies it.

In conclusion, I enjoyed this museum because it contains my favorite artist. While it doesn't quite have my true favorite, it did contain a good second place favorite in the visuals of *The Waterlily Pond*. As someone who advocates for digital museums existing, this gallery is important because, although I cannot physically visit Paris, France at the moment, I still learned more about my favorite artist and viewed works I'd otherwise not have noticed.