

## A Review of the Renoir Exhibit

Do you know what impressionism is? It was an art form invented by several artists in France. An impressionist painting looked quite different from other styles of art! It used brushed strokes to create an impression of something. It gave you an idea of an object and movement using a minimal number of brush strokes. Many critics did not like this style. One of the nicest said “take it home and finish it.” They did not believe that the paintings looked finished. This sparked a debate about “when is a painting finished” which led to the simple statement “a painting is finished when the artist stops.”

After that bit of history, we can get to the real point of this article. One of the artists that used impressionism was Pierre-Auguste Renoir. He started painting using traditional means, but soon branched into his own style. He was good friends with Claude Monet and the other artists who used impressionism.

I went to the Renoir: Landscapes exhibit at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. It was very interesting and educational. Renoir was one of the first artists to paint a landscape for its own sake. Before then, landscapes were simply backdrops for figures. Although some of his paintings included figures, many of them were paintings of landscapes and landscapes only.