

# A Visual History of the Visual Arts

Part 1: From Impressionism to Surrealism

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# The Victorian Age

- The Museum
  - British Museum (1759), Hermitage (1764), Uffizi (1765), Louvre (1793), Prado (1819), ...
  - The artwork is conceived for the space of exhibition
  - The artwork is influenced by the chronological succession of styles in the museum

# The Victorian Age

- Art becomes abstract, abandons representation
- Influence of instrumental music? Vocal music was always about something, but instrumental music was "abstract".
- Why did it happen in the early 20th century?
- Influence of physics, electricity, chemistry and medicine, all of which showed that there is an invisible underlying layer to the reality that we experience.
- The underlying reality is "abstract".

# The Victorian Age

- **Painting/ From Realism to Impressionism**
  - **Eduard Manet (1832, France):**
    - **“Le Dernier Dejeuner” (1863) - four disconnected characters, violation of the law of perspective, shadows oriented in opposite directions**



# The Victorian Age

- **Painting/ From Realism to Impressionism**
  - **Eduard Manet (1832, France):**
    - **“Music in the Tuileries” (1862) - chaotic scene without a focus, no hierarchy, curved trees**





# The Victorian Age

- **Painting/ From Realism to Impressionism**
  - **Eduard Manet (1832, France):**
    - “Boats” (1873) - curved horizon
    - “Boating” (1874) - no horizon



# The Victorian Age

- **Painting/ From Realism to Impressionism**
  - **Edgar Degas (1834, France): Movement**

“La Classe de Danse” (1876)



“La La At the Cirque Fernando” (1879)



This is a chapter in piero scaruffi's "A Visual History of the Visual Arts": <http://www.scaruffi.com/art/history>