

Artist : [MONET, Claude](#)



Description: Archive Source:Wadsworth Cengage

Digital Image Library 4/2008 Book

Source:Stokstad; Gardner

Title: ***Rouen Cathedral Series***

Date: 1892 - 1893

Category: Painting

Period:19th Century

Subject or Object Type: Architectural Landscape

Materials: oil on canvas

Location:Repository: Kunstsammlungen, Weimar, Germany

Nationality/Culture: French

It inspires me:

- **The light is main narrative elements in the works.**

As one of the leads in the Impressionisms, Monet, Claude pioneered in depicting light.

He had noticed that the light could be great impacts on the nature objects when he started his Rouen Cathedral projects. Actually, in his *Rouen Cathedral* series, light was his main character and took great concern of it.

- **Through the light, let the architecture, the cathedral itself tells a story.**

Rouen Cathedral series, more than thirty of them, are painted during 1892 and 1893. Monet distinguishes the differences of light conditions under various times of the year and day.¹ For example, the depth of field in dull weather is deep and clear. In *Rouen Cathedral, the West Portal and Saint-Romain Tower, Full Sunlight, Harmony in Blue and Gold*, when the sun is full light, the color of lights are unsaturated. In *Rouen Cathedral, Facade (sunset), harmonie in gold and blue*, as the title stated, the cathedral is filled with gold and blue lights. With different light, even the same cathedral is telling individual stories.

- **From viewer's perspective, the artwork is fixed camera view.**

When viewers appreciate this traditional art form, their eyes received only one camera view that the artist deliberately present in the framed painting. This perspective view is passive and fixed. Viewers only appreciate and study it by eye contact.

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rouen_Cathedral_%28Monet%29 (accessed Sep 11, 2011).