

**IMPRESSIONISTS BY THE SEA
THE SACKLER WING OF GALLERIES**

7 July 2007 – 30 September 2007

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Impressionists by the Sea celebrates 19th-century representations of the northern coastline of France. The exhibition, which consists of sixty paintings, explores the origins and development of the scenes of the newly fashionable seaside from the early 1860s to the early 1870s, in the work of Eugène Boudin, Manet and Monet. It looks at beach scenes of the 1880s, in which the Impressionists, notably Monet, turned their backs on the depictions of people and used their new painting techniques to capture the effects of weather and light on the coastline.

During the 19th-century, the northern coast of France was transformed from being the preserve of local populations who earned their livelihood from the sea to being adopted as the province of holidaymakers. During the summer months the coast saw its beaches, fishing villages and modest ports transformed into an extension of modern urban life, 'the summer boulevard of Paris'. From the 1820s onwards, the coast provided important subjects for artists in France, who sought to capture on canvas these social and economic changes. Initially, painters portrayed the coast in Romantic terms, focusing on the evocation of the sublime forces of nature and depiction of picturesque scenes of local fishermen. By the 1860s stylish holidaymakers began to appear in paintings, as many of the resorts in the area, such as Deauville and Trouville, became fashionable. The exhibition concentrates on those works that show the beach itself - the meeting of land and sea; it is this that reveals most clearly the painters' approaches to the theme - both to the uses of the beach, for work and pleasure, and to the natural forces that shaped the coastline.

Against a background of late Romantic views by Eugène Isabey and Paul Huet, together with austere realist representations by Gustave Courbet, **Impressionists by the Sea** reveals the respective origins of the fashionable contemporary beach scene from the early 1860s to the early 1870s.

In addition, a small group of more conventional representations of beach scenes, by artists such as Whistler and Cazin, have been selected to provide the context within which the Impressionists' pictorial innovations were received. These works of art, created for acceptance by the official Salon, are powerful examples of the popularly acclaimed treatment of this subject. The contrast with the Impressionists highlights the distinctive qualities of these artists' experiments as they appeared to their contemporaries.

ORGANISATION

The exhibition is curated by Professor John House, Walter H. Annenberg Professor, Courtauld Institute, with MaryAnne Stevens, Acting Secretary, Royal Academy of Arts, Eliza Rathbone, Chief Curator, The Phillips Collection, and Dr. Eric Zafran, Curator of European Paintings and Sculpture, Wadsworth Atheneum.

SPONSORS

Farrow & Ball, the renowned maker of high quality paints and wallpapers, has sponsored **Impressionists by the Sea**.

Sarah Cole, Director, Farrow & Ball, said:

“At Farrow & Ball we have an abiding passion for colour and texture, a keen interest in the visual arts and a commitment to preserving historical designs and methods.

Our colour palette relates strongly to the colours featured in this exhibition, and so we felt it fitting to support the Royal Academy and to celebrate the work of some of the greatest Impressionist artists of the 19th century.

We are thrilled to be associated with this exhibition which is sure to delight and inspire.”

CATALOGUE

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue which includes essays by Professor John House of the Courtauld Institute, London, on the pictorial representation of the development of the French seaside during the 19th-century, and by Dr. David Hopkin of Hertford College, Oxford, on the economic interface between traditional fishing industries and new recreational functions. There are also focused catalogue entries on each work.

EXHIBITION TOUR

Royal Academy of Arts, London

7 July 2007 – 30 September 2007

The Phillips Collection, Washington

20 October 2007 – 13 January 2008

Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford

9 February 2008 – 11 May 2008

DATES AND OPENING HOURS

Press View	3 July 2007, 10 am – 2 pm
Open to public:	7 July 2007 – 30 September 2007 10 am – 6 pm daily (last admission 5.30 pm)
Late night openings:	Fridays until 10 pm (last admission 9.30 pm)

ADMISSION

£8.00 full price; £7.00 Registered Disabled and 60 + years; £6.00 NUS / ISIC cardholders; £3.00 12–18 years and Income Support; £2.00 8–11 years; 7 and under free.

TICKETS

Tickets are available daily at the RA. To book tickets in advance please tel: 0870 848 8484 or visit www.royalacademy.org.uk. Groups of 10 or more are asked to book in advance; please tel: 020 7300 8027 or email: groupbookings@royalacademy.org.uk

IMAGES

Publicity images for **Impressionists by the Sea** can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association's image service for press use. Please register at www.papicselect.co.uk and once registered go to the Royal Academy folder in the Arts section.

**For public information, please print 020 7300 8000 or www.royalacademy.org.uk.
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For further press information, please contact Johanna Bennett in the RA Press Office on 020 7300 5614, fax 020 7300 8032, or email press.office@royalacademy.org.uk

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