

19th Century Realist Art



REALISM

- **Subject matter:** life as it is
- **Themes:** ordinary places and people.
- **Theory of art:** to report and describe reality as accurately and honestly as possible; to denounce the workers class situation.
- **Space:** in the open air
- **Figures:** realistic, individualistic



Jean-Francois Millet



(1814-1875)

- realist artist
- painted rural and working class people, especially peasants
- conveys a sense of admiration for common man
- his artwork reflects socialist ideas of the time.



Jean-Francois Millet

In 1848 he chose to exhibit **The Winnower**, a painting depicting peasant life. It was the first of many rural scenes based on memories of his own childhood. Criticized for allowing socialist concerns to infiltrate his art, Millet stated that it was “the human side” of life that he wished to portray.





Honore Daumier

(1808-1879)

Daumier was concerned with the social problems of the time and it reflected through his work. He used satire to point out his social ills.

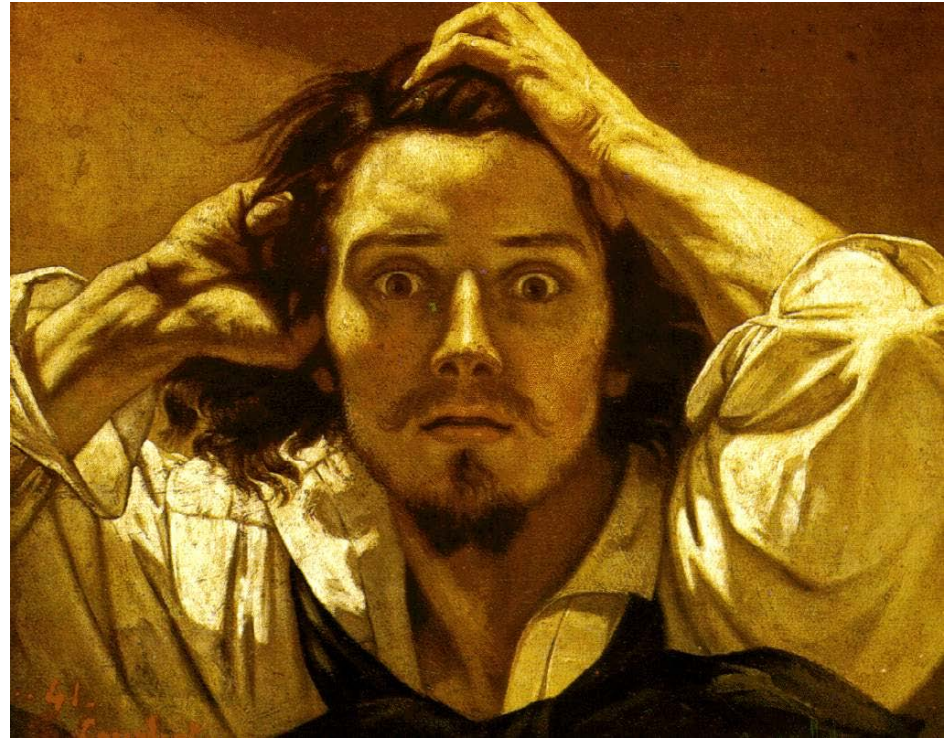


Honore was deeply interested in people, especially the underprivileged. In ***Third-Class Carriage*** he shows us, with great compassion, a group of people on a train journey. Honore makes no attempt to glorify the lower classes, instead, he depicted them as he saw them.



Gustave Courbet

- represented French society as he saw
- made no attempt to beautify the French landscape or people
- Criticized because his work was too crude in subject matter and technique.
- Promoted working class cause.





The Winnowers was created by Courbet at the peak of his political technique to his art. He depicted women who were tired looking over worked as an example of the run down working class.

COURBET: *The Stone Breakers*



G. Courbet





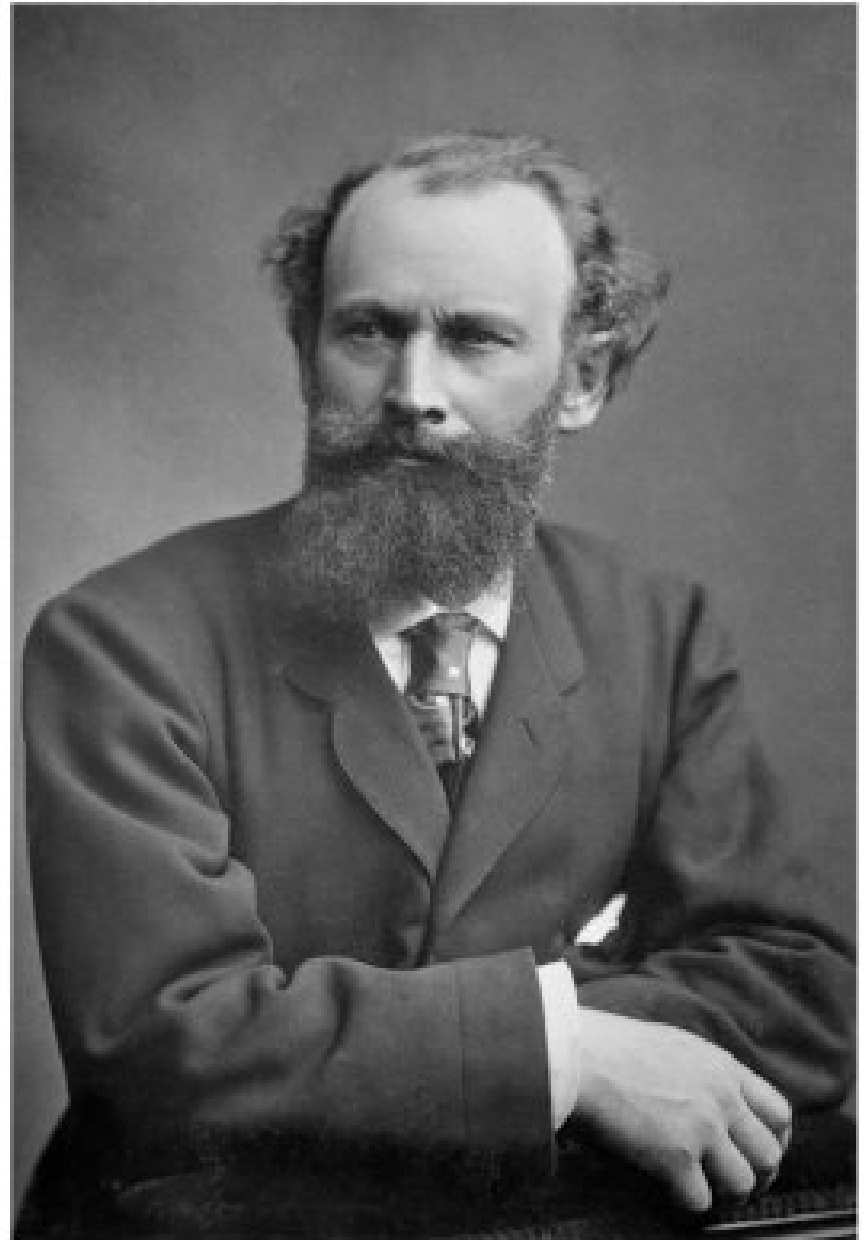
COURBET: Proudhom and his daughters



Edouard Manet

(1832-1883)

- defiance of popular tastes
- led the way to Impressionism
- used realism in a way related to photography, no conscious effort to depict beauty





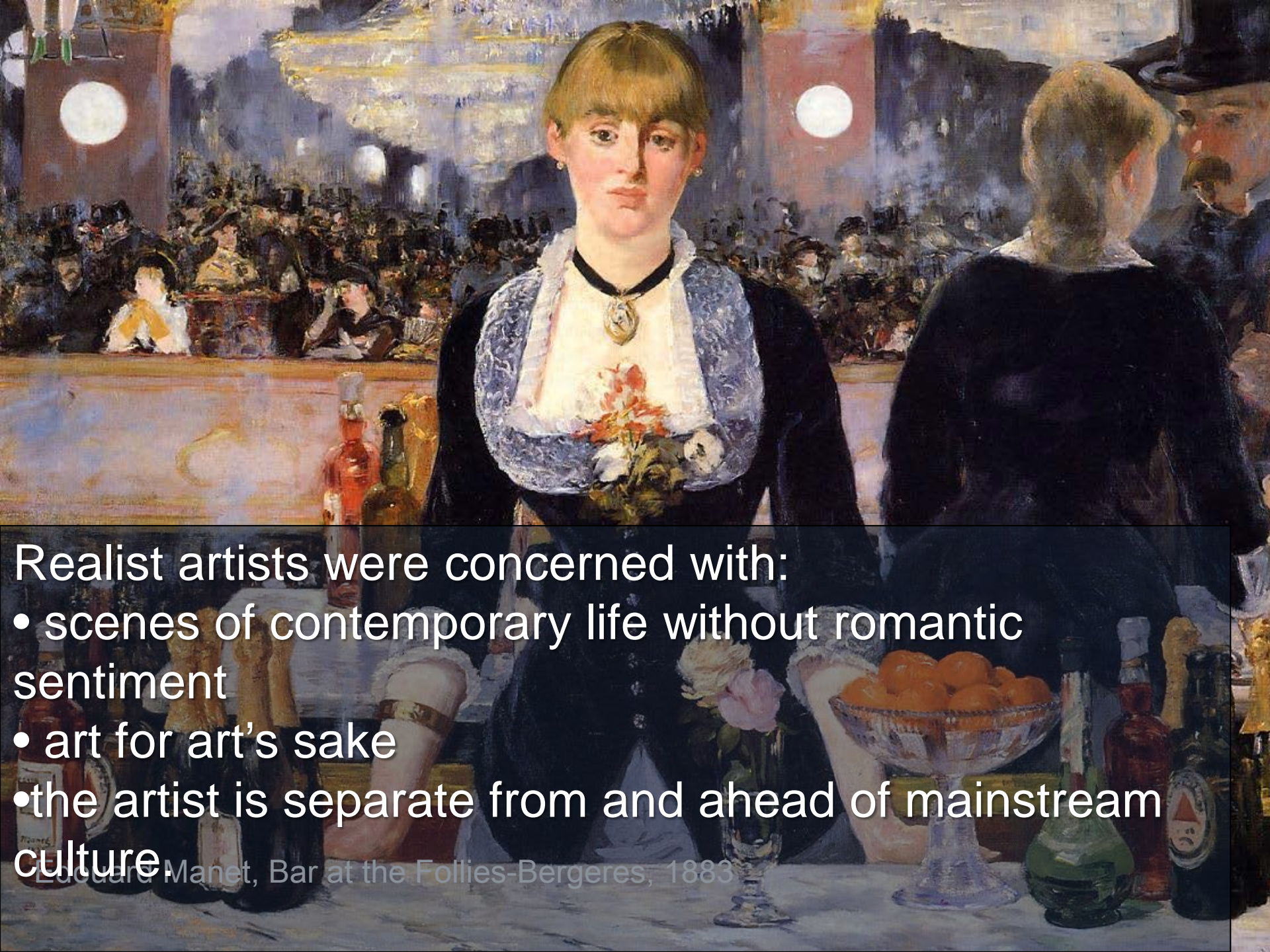
Edouard Manet

Manet began his career with *The Absinthe Drinker* (1858), a painting depicting a debauched and solitary man amongst the shadows of the back streets of Paris. Paintings like the *Absinthe Drinker* portray a darker aspect of Parisian life which was quite removed from Manet's circle, but nonetheless very real.



- *The Young Flautist*
- Or, *The Fifer*





Realist artists were concerned with:

- scenes of contemporary life without romantic sentiment
- art for art's sake
- the artist is separate from and ahead of mainstream culture

Édouard Manet, Bar at the Follies-Bergeres, 1883