

European Masters

William Turner

Study*ladder*

William Turner

Joseph Mallord William Turner

Born: 23 April 1775

Died: 19 December 1851

Style: Romanticism

Turner was an English artist who specialized in landscapes. He is known for his highly atmospheric style which captured the mood of the scenes he painted in oil paints and watercolours.

Turner painted shipwrecks, fires, stormy seas, fog and sunlight and was fascinated with displaying the awe-inspiring grandeur and power of nature. Light was a key feature of his paintings.

Today, two prestigious art prizes are named after him.



*A sketch of William Turner based on his self portrait, 1799
The original portrait, oil on canvas hangs in the Tate Gallery, London ,UK.*

William Turner

The Battle Of Trafalgar

Date Completed: 1822-1824

Medium: Oil on Canvas

Dimensions: 261.5 x 368.5 cm
(102.95 X 145.08 in)

Location: The National Maritime
Museum, London, UK

In 1822, King George IV of England commissioned Turner to paint a commemorative account of the victory of Lord Nelson's Fleet in the Battle of Trafalgar.

Turner not only captured the fierceness of the battle but highlighted sacrifice of war. (Lord Nelson himself and many others died in this victory in 1805.)



William Turner



***The Fighting Temeraire,
tugged to her last berth
to be broken up, 1838***

Completed: 1839

Medium: Oil on Canvas

Dimensions: 203 cm × 314 cm (80 in × 124 in)

Located: The National Gallery, London, UK

The Temeraire was a fighting ship that was involved in the Battle of Trafalgar.

She looks like a ghost as the sun sets on her valiant career. Turner has given her a beautiful send off in this painting.

William Turner



Sun Setting over a Lake

Completed: about 1840

Medium: Oil on Canvas

Dimensions: 91.1 x 122.6 cm (35.9 x 48.3 in)

Located: The Tate Gallery, London, UK

Turner has concentrated on the atmospheric lighting of a sunset over water in this painting. Apart from the setting sun on the horizon, nothing else is clearly visible in the haze.

Turner was a master painter who was known as "The Painter of Light." It is not hard to see why!