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## Claude Monet, Free Thinker: Radical Republicanism, Darwin's Science, and the Evolution of Impressionist Aesthetics (Hardback)

By Michael J. Call

Peter Lang Publishing Inc, United States, 2015. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 230 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. This revolutionary interdisciplinary study argues that Monet's artistic practices and choices were the direct result of his political stance as a nineteenth-century libre penseur, a position characterized by radical republicanism, a progressive social agenda, and fierce anticlericalism. His efforts to create a style reflecting his personal political code led him to produce paintings proclaimed by like-minded free thinkers as a science being constantly perfected (Gustave Geffroy), that is, emphasizing only observable phenomena in the immediate present through scrupulous, insistent on-site observation, capturing the raw data of sensations and sensory experience and purporting to record a world free of embedded meaning. Darwin's world similarly comes with no prepackaged reassurance of humankind's privileged place in it; it is instead a space in which all varieties of organisms and species compete for limited resources in a struggle for survival. The Darwinian model of nature appears to have influenced Monet's artistic production increasingly as his style evolved over several decades. In opposition to post-Renaissance art that privileged the human presence in both representation and the viewing act, Monet s...



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