



Art Appreciation Lecture Series 2015
Meet the Masters: Highlights from the Scottish National Gallery

Cézanne: The big trees

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Lecture summary:

Paul Cézanne was ‘the father of us all’ (Picasso), ‘a sort of god’ (Matisse), the ‘last old master ... the first new master’ (Max Beckmann). His place in the history of modern art is secure. But Cézanne is also ‘inscrutable’ (T.J. Clark), ‘profoundly enigmatic’ (Bridget Riley), a maker of paintings characterised by their ‘sheer strangeness’ (Paul Smith). *The big trees*, from late in the artist’s life, is Cézanne at his strangest and most searching: a landscape that appears to be unmaking itself before our eyes. In this lecture we consider what led Cézanne to this way of seeing and painting, paying special attention to the trees that figure centrally in his late work. And we ask: Is *The big trees* a fitting conclusion to the landscape tradition that threads through the *The greats*, or the start of its unravelling?

Slide list:

1. Paul Cézanne, *The big trees*, 1902-4, oil on canvas, Scottish National Gallery
2. View of publicity for *The Greats: Masterpieces from the National Galleries of Scotland*
3. Paul Cezanne, *L’Estaque*, 1879-83, oil on canvas, Museum of Modern Art, New York
4. Georges Braque, *Landscape with houses*, 1908-9, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of New South Wales
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7. View of Montagne Sainte-Victoire, Aix en Provence, France
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9. Paul Cézanne, *The Abduction*, 1867, oil on canvas, The Provost and Fellows of Kings College, Cambridge. Keynes Collection. On loan to the Fitzwilliam Museum
10. Paul Cézanne, *Portrait of Antony Valebréque*, 1866, oil on canvas, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
11. Camille Pissarro and Paul Cézanne near Pontoise
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13. Cézanne going out to work from the motif at Auvers-sur-Oise, 1874
14. Paul Cézanne, *View of Auvers-sur-Oise*, c. 1873, oil on canvas, The Art institute of Chicago
15. Camille Pissarro, *The small bridge, Pontoise*, 1875, oil on canvas, Städtische Kunsthalle, Mannheim
16. Paul Cézanne, *The bridge at Maincy*, 1879-80, oil on canvas, Musée d’Orsay
17. Paul Cézanne, *Mont Sainte-Victoire from the Bibémus Quarry*, c. 1897, oil on canvas, The Baltimore Museum of Art
18. Paul Cézanne, *Mont Sainte-Victoire seen from Bellevue*, 1882-85, Oil on canvas, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
19. Nicolas Poussin, *Landscape with travellers resting*, The National Gallery, London, oil on canvas, about 1638-9

20. Mont *Sainte-Victoire with large pine* c1887, oil on canvas, Courtauld Institute Galleries, London
21. Nicolas Poussin, *Landscape with the ashes of Phocion*, 1648, oil on canvas, Walker Art Gallery
22. Paul Cézanne, *The great pine*, c.1889, oil on canvas, Museu de Arte de Sao Paulo, Brazil, Chateaubriand Collection
23. Gustave Courbet, *Oak at Flagey*, 1864, oil on canvas, Murauchi Art Museum, Tokyo
24. Paul Cézanne, *Large pine and red earth*, 1890-95, oil on canvas, 72 x 91cm, The Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg
25. Bridget Riley, installation view, *The curve paintings: 1961-2014*, The De La Warr Pavilion, 2015
26. Henri Matisse, *Trivaux Pond*, 1916 or 1917, oil on canvas, Tate
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29. Paul Cézanne, *Pines and rocks (Fontainebleau)*, c. 1897, oil on canvas, Museum of Modern Art, New York
30. Paul Cézanne, *Forest* 1894, oil on canvas, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
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References:

- Francoise Cachin et al., *Cézanne*, Tate Publishing, 1996
 Alex Danchev, *Cézanne: A life*, Pantheon, 2012
 Carolyn Lanchner, *Cézanne*, The Museum of Modern Art, 2011
 Peter Raissis and Louis-Antoine Prat, *David to Cézanne: Master drawings from the Prat collection*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, 2010
 Meyer Schapiro, *Paul Cézanne*, Harry N. Abrams, 1952
 Paul Smith, *Interpreting Cézanne*, Tate Publishing, 1996,

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<http://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/members/current-members/member-events/meet-the-masters/>

The Big Trees. Artist. Paul Cezanne. Medium. Painting - Oil On Canvas. Description. The Big Trees, c.1904 (oil on canvas). Uploaded. November 12th, 2014. Statistics. Viewed 1,735 Times - Last Visitor from Cupertino, CA on 07/16/2021 at 5:21 AM. Colors. View Color 647078. Paul Cezanne - The Bay of Marseilles, Seen from L'Estaque, 1885 at New York Metropolitan Art Museum Listed in the book - 50 Impressionism Paintings You Should Know. Mallory on the Moon Style Me Pretty. Paul Gauguin Post Impressionists Painting Cezanne Art Post Impressionism Modern Painting Posters Art Prints Paul Cezanne Paintings. Paul Cézanne, View of L'Estaque and the Château d'If, 1885, oil on canvas, 393 x 500 cm (Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, UK). ViaFlavia Art by painters. Paul Gauguin Modern Art Painting Cezanne Art Museum Of Modern Art Fine Art Post Impressionism Cezanne Art. However Cézanne's work, including his depiction of trees, is the greatest single influence of nineteenth century painting over modernism and art in the twentieth century. It is therefore worth the effort of appreciating them better, even if you may never come to effuse or enthuse over them in the way that you might over van Gogh's cypresses. Cézanne did include depictions of trees in his paintings prior to his Impressionist phase, but they are relatively infrequent, painted fairly simply, very dark, and when worked using a knife (in his couillarde style) a strictly acquired taste. Paul Cézanne (1839–1906), La Route tournante en sous-bois (The Bend in the Road Through the Forest) (c 1873), oil on canvas, 55.2 x 45.7 cm, Solomon M. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY. Cézanne; Paul Cezanne; Cezanne. Description. French painter, engraver, lithographer, drawer and graphic artist. User:Yann/List of paintings by Paul Cézanne/Landscapes. File:The Big Trees (Paul Cézanne).jpg. File usage on other wikis. The following other wikis use this file