



Daubigny and Impressionism

Frances Fowle

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Known today for his atmospheric views of the river Oise, Charles François Daubigny was a pioneer of modern landscape painting and an important precursor of French Impressionism. Although commercially highly successful he was often criticized for his broad, sketch-like handling and unembellished view of nature, and was dubbed the leader of 'the school of the impression'. As a result he drew the attention of the next generation of artists, among them Claude Monet and Vincent van Gogh, who were inspired by Daubigny's frank naturalism, bold compositions and technical innovations. There was an artistic dialogue which spanned thirty years, from the early 1860s to the end of Van Gogh's short life.

Frances Fowle is Senior Curator of French Art at the Scottish National Gallery and Reader in History of Art at the University of Edinburgh. She is a specialist in French nineteenth-century art, collecting and the art market and has published widely on these subjects. Her previous publications include *Monet and French Landscape* (2006), *Impressionism and Scotland* (2008) and *Van Gogh's Twin: The Scottish Art Dealer Alexander Reid 1854-1928* (2010).