

# IMPRESSIONISM IN FASHION PHOTOGRAPHY

- SITANMAY MAITY

Since the initial days in my photography I really liked to capture portrait of people and depict their lives in my photos and make a memory. As I learned forward I came across the field of fashion photography which is meant to be capturing the essence of the people around us, their attitude and style in the society.

So to depict the style of the society one needs to make his/her photographs stylist with certain aesthetics or style. Since the beginning of the photography in 1839 the field of photography is inspired by painting. Many painters, chemists and scientists together made a very large contribution to make this field a success. The field of photography always tried to make its place worth among the other art genres such as painting, music, dance, poem, etc. to make this process come true many photographers emerged as artist who created some wonderful visuals very individual and different from the inspired painting, those were the real essence of photography.

Since the time of painting occurred many artists had set their trend in the society. And those trends were being followed by the rest throughout the decade or so. So in order to classify the different time periods of the various artists those periods were classified as Art Movements. Many art movements aroused during the time and parallelly when photography emerged those various art movements also played an important role to develop the photographer's sight. Among the various art movements major were Realism, Surrealism, Dadaism, impressionism, Expressionism, Modernism, Post – Modernism, etc. These individual art movements also had their own sub categories.

The one art movement that really struck me was the Impressionism which began in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century by the French painters like **Claude Monet**, **Vincent Van Gogh** and **Camille Pissarro**. Traditional impressionistic paintings feature small, visible brush strokes, accurate representation of light, and the inclusion of a feeling of motion in the composition as a crucial element of human perception and experience and unusual visual angles. Impressionists rebelled against classical subject matter and embraced modernity. Desiring to create works that reflected the world in which they lived. The artists constructed their pictures from freely brushed colours that took precedence over lines and contours. They portrayed overall visual effects instead of details, and used short broken brush strokes of mixed and pure unmixed colour, not blended smoothly or shaded, as was customary to achieve an effect of intense colour vibration.



Vincent Van Gogh – Self-Portrait with Straw Hat



Claude Monet - Impression Sunrise

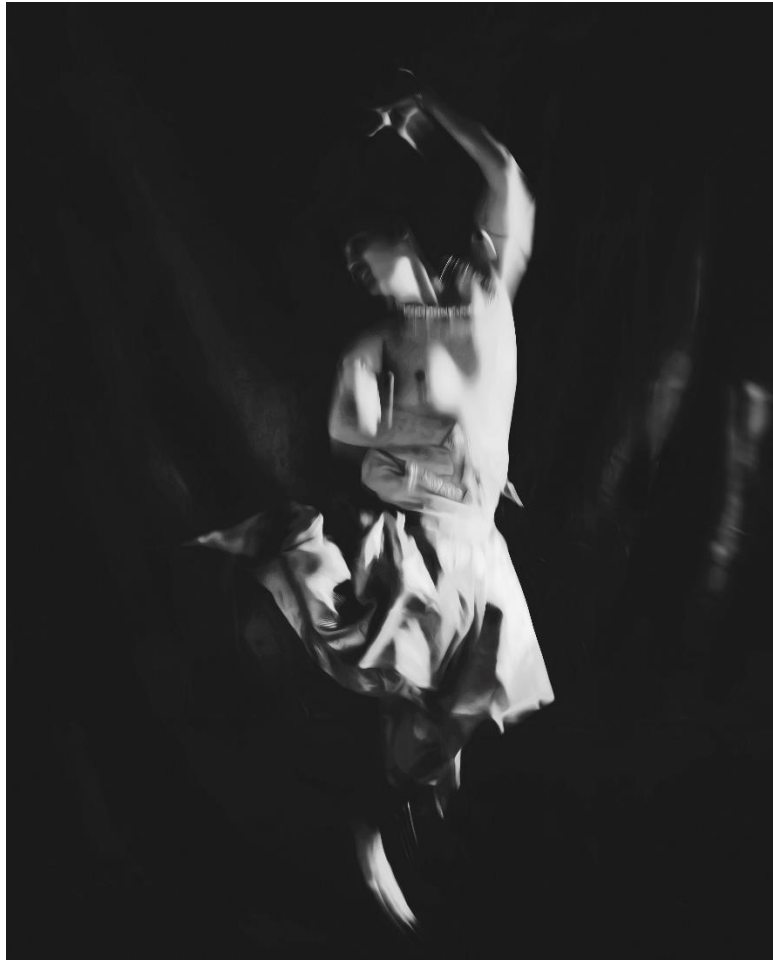
Impressionism is known for its paintings that aimed to depict the transience of light, and to capture scenes of modern life and the natural world in their ever-shifting conditions. This art movement was greatly followed by many painters as well as photographers, and the joint contribution led to give rise its sub categories such as Neo – Impressionism, Post – Impressionism, Luminism, Fauvism, etc. Among the photographers Edgar Degas, Freeman Patterson,

Hal Eastman, Étienne-Jules Marey gave their major contribution to develop the technicalities that made the photo impressionistic. The technicalities included Intentional camera movement, Zooming, Soft Focusing, Long Exposures, Focus Through, Defocusing, etc.

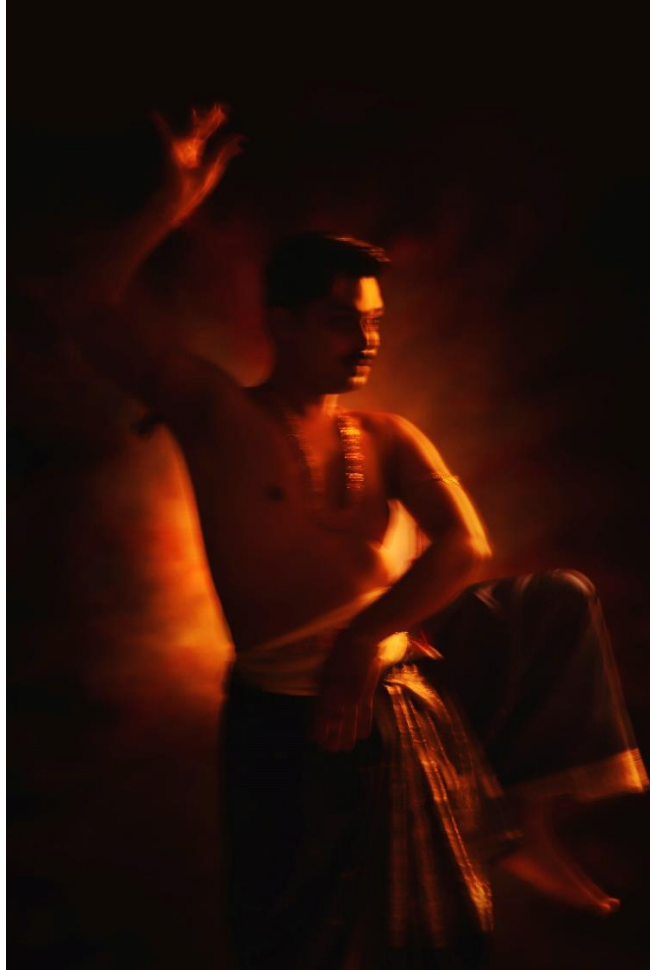


Neo – Impressionism was majorly used to depict something or someone's story by not depicting the real physical form of the subject but creating the mood and form that can say something more dramatic. Specifically speaking the Neo – Impressionistic movement was the one that really had fascinated me.

My following work can be classified as one the works which follows the elements of Neo – Impressionism, which revolves around the story of a male Bharatanatyam dancer who always has faced rejection in a country like India where the dance form of ***Bharatanatyam*** is idealised only for women and the men are the irrational being who destroys the society by their overpowering patriarchy. But this artist who performs to show his rage and elegance at the same time, he uses Raag rasa one of the Navarasa (Feeling of Expression) which is used to show resistance and rage.







Impressionism has been the most radical or revolutionary art movement in history. Impressionism is responsible for all of the modern art movements that we are familiar with today. Impressionism broke the rules so that more radical forms of art may one day be accepted, and impressionism has become the most popular art movement in history. Impressionist paintings are appreciated due to their beauty and their impact on contemporary culture, because if it wasn't for Impressionism, you wouldn't be able to go to different places, and staring at weird abstract statues with great admiration and finding beauty in them. So, admire the history that Impressionism has helped to create and wonder as you stare at the magnificent paintings or photographs that artists produced, for only when we know about the art, can we truly appreciate it.

---