Claude Monet's Water Lilies

by smArty

PARIS Offered by the painter Claude Monet to France the very day after the armistice of 11 November 1918 as a symbol of peace, the Water Lilies were installed according to his plans in the Orangery Museum in 1927, a few months after his death. This unique ensemble, a veritable "Sistine of Impressionism", as André Masson put it in 1952, is a testimony to the work of the last Monet, conceived as a real environment and crowns the cycle of the Water Lilies that began almost thirty years earlier.

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The ensemble is one of the largest monumental achievements of painting in the first half of the 20th century. The dimensions and surface area covered by the painting surround and encompass the viewer for almost one hundred linear metres, where a water landscape unfolds, punctuated by water lilies, willow branches, tree reflections and clouds, giving "the illusion of an endless whole, a wave without horizon and shoreline" in Monet's own words. This unique masterpiece has no equivalent anywhere in the world.

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