

# Realism

(1850 – 1880)

# Realism

- historical background-

- Appears after the French Revolution
- Society desired a taste of democracy
- Middle class was strengthened
- Increase interest in the ideals of liberty and equality



# Realism

## - characteristics -

- Artist attempted to describe human behavior and surroundings as they appear or act in life
- Did not try to embellish
- Truth and accuracy were the goals of Realist
- Tended to disregard theatrical drama and classical forms of art



# Realism

## Visual Art

Gustav Courbet

- 1819-1877
- “To be able to translate the customs, ideas, and appearances, of my time as I see them – in a word, to create a living art – this has been my aim...The art of painting can consist only in the representation of objects visible and tangible to the painter...,who must apply, his personal faculties to the ideas and the things of the period in which he lives....I hold also that painting is an essentially *concrete* art, and can consist only of the representation of things both *real* and *existing*....An abstract object, invisible or nonexistent, does not belong to the domain of painting....Show me an angel, and I’ll paint one.”

# Realism

## Visual Art

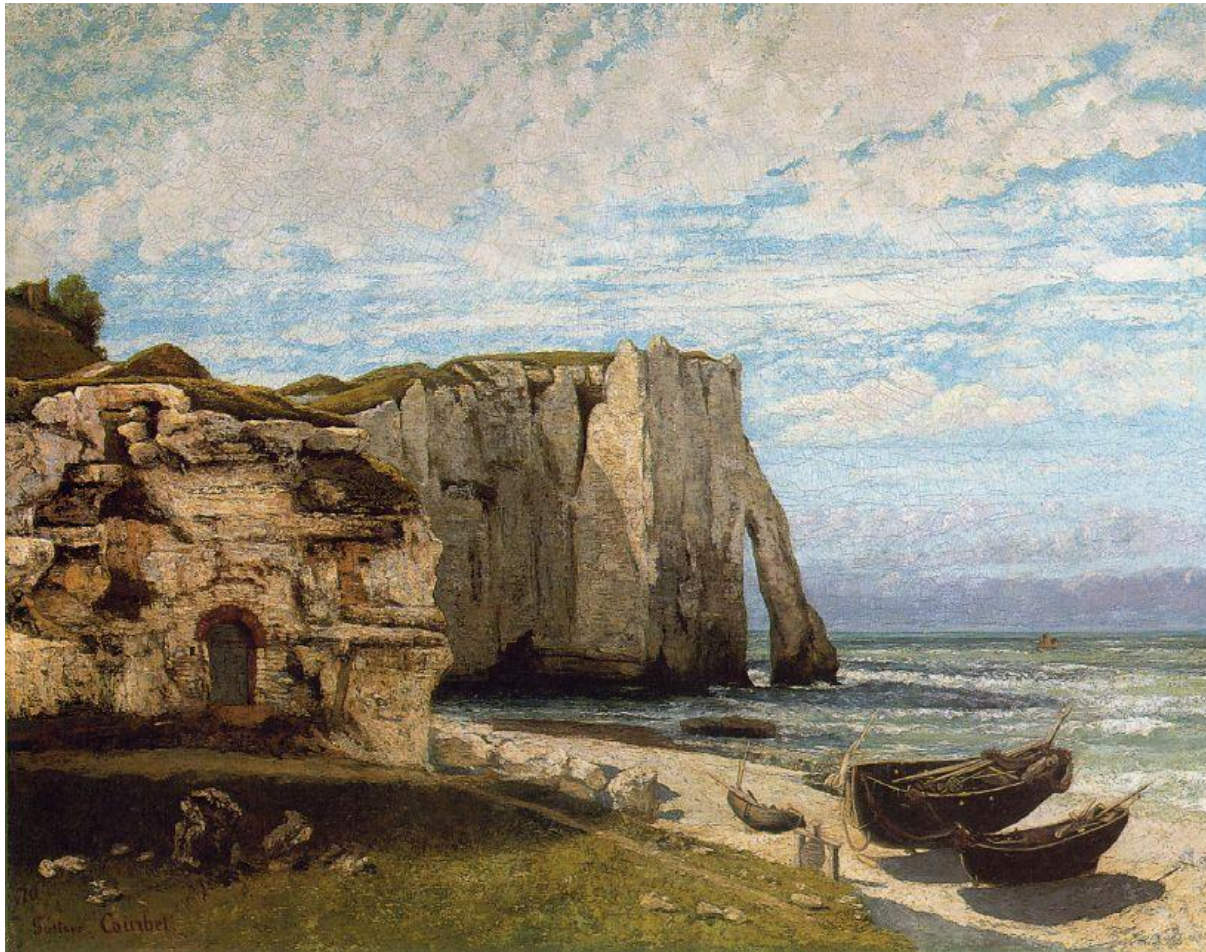
Courbet's goal was to paint a direct observation of his surroundings. Painterly style that depicted "observable" moments of life.



# Realism

## Visual Art

Subject matter consisted of “everyday” working people and life.  
Rejected the ideals of Classicism and Romanticism.



Compared to ROMANTICISM

# Realism

## Visual Art

### Edouard Manet

- 1832-1883
- Realist Painter
- Like Courbet, experimented greatly with technique: surface is very painterly.
- Figures and still lives – despite being naturalistic – stand alone against very flat, muted background
- Later transitioned into Impressionism





Luncheon on the Grass





Still lives stand alone against very flat, muted background.

# Realism

## Theater

### Henrik Ibsen

- 1828 – 1906
- Realist Drama
- Norwegian playwright
- Works were considered scandalous for his time (Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century).
- Considered the father of modern drama.
- Known for *A Doll's House*, *Pillars of Society*, *An Enemy of the People*



# Realism

## Theater

### George Bernard Shaw

- Irish playwright and author.
- Authored over 60 plays
- Received a Nobel Prize for his contributions to literature in 1925.
- Famous works: *Cashel Byron's Profession*, *Pygmalion*

