

Questions 31-39

The artistic movement known as Impressionism was first identified in 1874 when a group of artists, dissatisfied with the reception of their works by the academic art establishment of their period, chose to hold a separate exhibition of their paintings.

Despite obvious differences in style, all of these painters were connected by an ability to catch a moment and preserve it on canvas, and in their belief in the importance of that moment. They readily accepted and made use of the technological advances available to them, and in the end became recognized as proponents of one of the most significant movements in the history of art, a movement that produced an aesthetic revolution in art.

Several technological breakthroughs were responsible, to some degree, for the creation and execution of the new Impressionist style. One of these was the invention of a new brush that gave artists greater control. Another useful invention was the collapsible tin tube. This easily resealed container preserved the oil paint in a stable condition without altering the color. It was a great improvement over animal bladders, which had been used for centuries to hold oil paint. The new tube was portable and made it possible for artists to work outside. This freedom made it possible for Impressionist paintings to "capture the moment" giving them a feeling of immediacy.

Another innovation was color. Nineteenth-century chemists had created a new palette of colors, derived from cola tar and other substances. These were first used by textile manufacturers and then adopted by artists. They included some of the brighter colors – new shades of blue, green, and yellow, whose tones gave the Impressionist paintings their characteristic shimmering quality.

31. What did the group of Impressionist artists do in 1874?

- (A) They radically changed their style of painting.
- (B) They held their own exhibition.
- (C) They adopted new techniques and technologies.
- (D) They refused to paint anything that year.

32. The word "it" in line 6 refers to

- (A) style
- (B) moment
- (C) ability
- (D) canvas

33. The word "readily" in line 7 is closest in meaning to

- (A) purposely
- (B) cautiously
- (C) cleverly
- (D) eagerly

34. According to the passage, Impressionism is regarded historically as

- (A) a significant, revolutionary movement
- (B) an innovative yet minor style
- (C) an unenlightened, radical phase
- (D) a traditional form of nineteenth-century painting

35. In line 15 the word "it" refers to

- (A) container
- (B) condition
- (C) oil paint
- (D) color

36. Which of the following words does NOT refer to something that holds paint?

- (A) Bladder
- (B) Tube
- (C) Condition
- (D) Container

37. What contribution did chemists make to the Impressionist movement?

- (A) New textiles
- (B) Better canvases
- (C) Additional colors
- (D) Tin tubes

38. It can be inferred that Impressionist paintings differed from other nineteenth-century paintings in terms of which of the following?

- (A) The size of the canvases
- (B) The brightness of the colors
- (C) The value of the painting
- (D) The talent of the artists