

1850s



1851
The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations, the first in a series of World's Fairs, takes place in London. The exhibition is housed in The Crystal Palace, designed by Joseph Paxton and engineer Charles Fox.



Japanese print of what is believed to be, from left, Commander Anan, Perry and Captain Henry Adams. The text represented may be President Fillmore's letter to the Emperor of Japan.

1854
Japan opens ports to trade with Western nations. Commodore Perry forces Japan to enter into trade with the United States. In 1858, another treaty will be signed which will open more ports and designate cities where foreigners can reside in Japan.

1855
The Exposition Universelle is held in Paris to highlight the social, industrial, and cultural progress in France under Napoleon III.



Realist painter Gustave Courbet's monumental canvas, *The Painter's Studio: A Real Allegory Summing Up Seven Years of my Artistic and Moral Life*, is rejected by the Paris Salon. Outraged, Courbet organizes a private exhibition in a tent he labels The Pavillon of Realism. Critic Charles Baudelaire praised Courbet for portraying the "heroism of modern life."

1850s
Ladies' fashion of the era

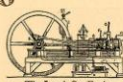


The Empress Eugénie, consort of Napoleon III, wearing a Worth gown in her state portrait.

1858
English dress designer Charles Frederick Worth, often regarded as "The Father of Haute Couture," opens a firm in Paris. "The House of Worth" dominates Parisian fashion through the second half of the nineteenth century.



1853
Étienne Lenoir invents the internal combustion engine.



1859
On The Origin of Species is published by Charles Darwin, in which he posits the theory of evolution: man descended from apes and only the fittest species survived and evolved.

1853
Gaspard-Félix Tournachon, known as Nadar, opens a photographic studio, soon to become a hub of the most illustrious personalities of the day. (See 1863.)



Double image of the photographer (and bon vivant) "Nadar" intended for viewing through a stereoscope.

1850s
The increasing popularity of photography encourages the development of faster printing processes and the circulation of inexpensive types of photographic prints, including the stereoscope and the *carte-de-visite* (visiting card).

1851
Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte mobilizes a military coup d'état that results in the fall of the Second Republic and he takes the throne as Napoleon III, Emperor of the Second French Empire, in 1852.



Portrait of Napoleon III, ca.1865

1857
Elisha Graves Otis installs the world's first passenger-service elevator in the five-story Haughwout Department Store in New York City.



Otis demonstrating his "safety" elevator at the 1854 New York Exposition.

1860s



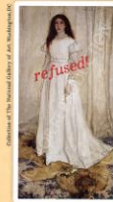
1860s
Ladies' fashion of the era



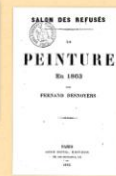
Claude Monet, *Village Street* 1867

1860 · 1861 · 1862 · 1863 · 1864 · 1865 · 1866 · 1867 · 1868 · 1869

1863
The Paris Salon rejects nearly 4,000 works of art, including paintings by Manet and Whistler, causing an artistic revolt. Many of the rejected artists consequently stage a separate exhibit entitled *Le Salon des Refusés*.



Edouard Manet, *Le Déjeuner sur l'Herbe*, (The Luncheon on the Grass) 1865



James Abbot McNeill Whistler, *Symphony in White, Number 1*, 1862

1861 - 1865
The American Civil War



1866
Pierre Lallement files the first patent for a bicycle.



Nadar's balloon, *Le Géant*, being prepared on the Champ des Mars, Paris.

1863
Gaspard-Félix Tournachon, known as Nadar, launches the world's largest gas balloon, dubbed *Le Géant* (The Giant). The 196-foot-tall balloon needs more than 300 seamstresses to assemble its 22,000 yards of silk.



1866
Alfred Nobel invents dynamite.



Edgar Degas, *Ballet Scene*, 1880



Camille Pissarro, *Avenue de l'Opéra, Sunshine, Winter Morning*, 1898



Rue du Jardinnet on the Left Bank, demolished by Haussmann to make room for the Boulevard Saint Germain.

1853 - 1870

Haussmann's Renovation of Paris
Emperor Napoléon III commissions a vast public works program directed by Georges-Eugène Haussmann. The citizens of Paris witness extensive demolition of crowded and unhealthy medieval neighborhoods, followed by the building of wide avenues, parks and squares, the annexation of the suburbs surrounding Paris, and the construction of new sewers, fountains and aqueducts. The distinctive street plan, characterized by boulevards radiating out from central squares, is largely the result of Haussmann's renovation.

1860
Japanese woodblock prints, first imported by porcelain dealer Felix Bracquemond, begin to inspire the work of Degas and other impressionist painters, in a movement to become known as *Japonism*.



Kitagawa Utamaro, *The Outer Robe*, ca.1795