



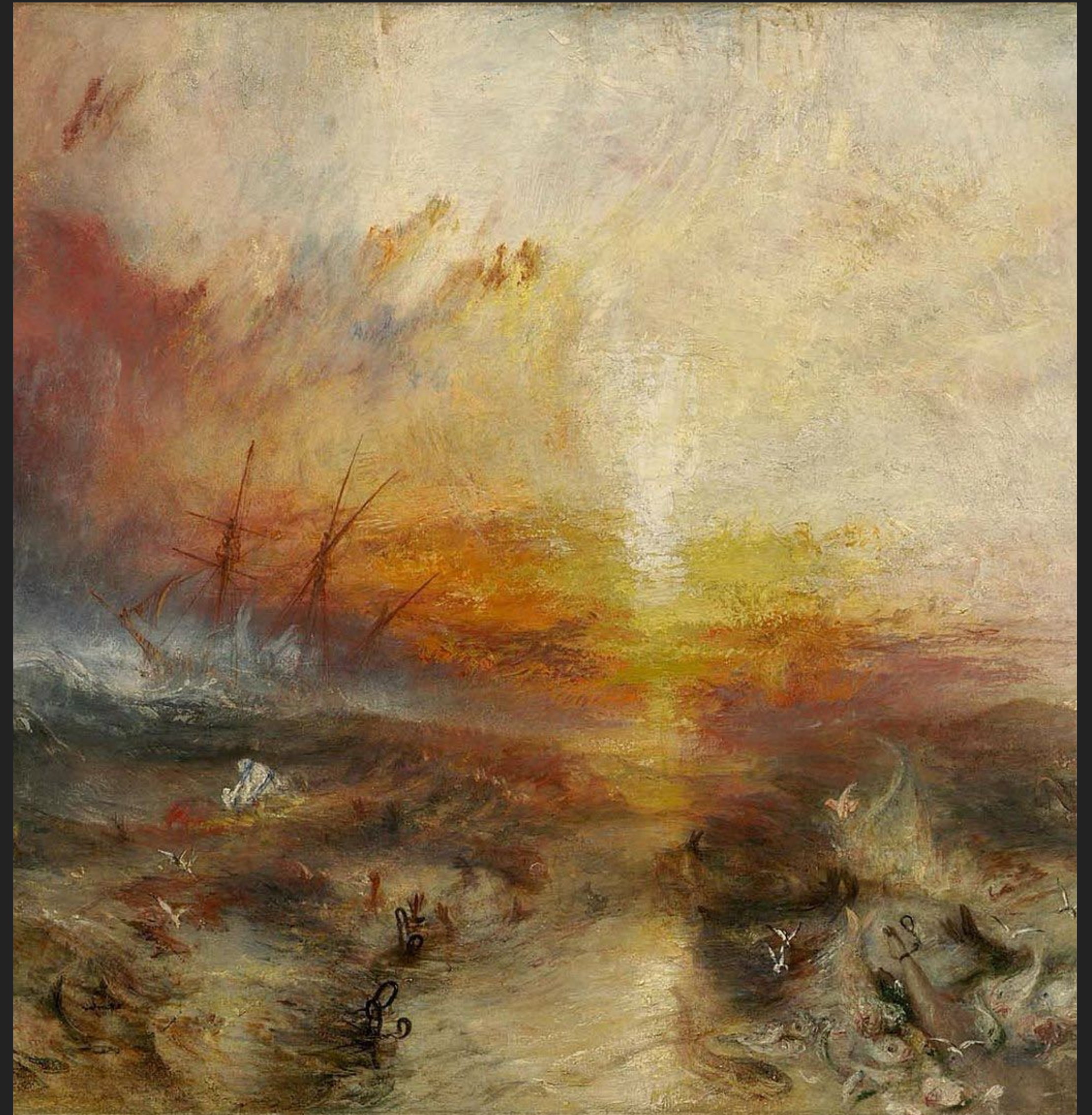
111. SLAVE SHIP (SLAVERS THROWING OVERBOARD THE DEAD AND DYING, TYPHOON COMING ON). JOSEPH MALLORD WILLIAM TURNER. 1840 C.E. OIL ON CANVAS.

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**J. M. W. TURNER**

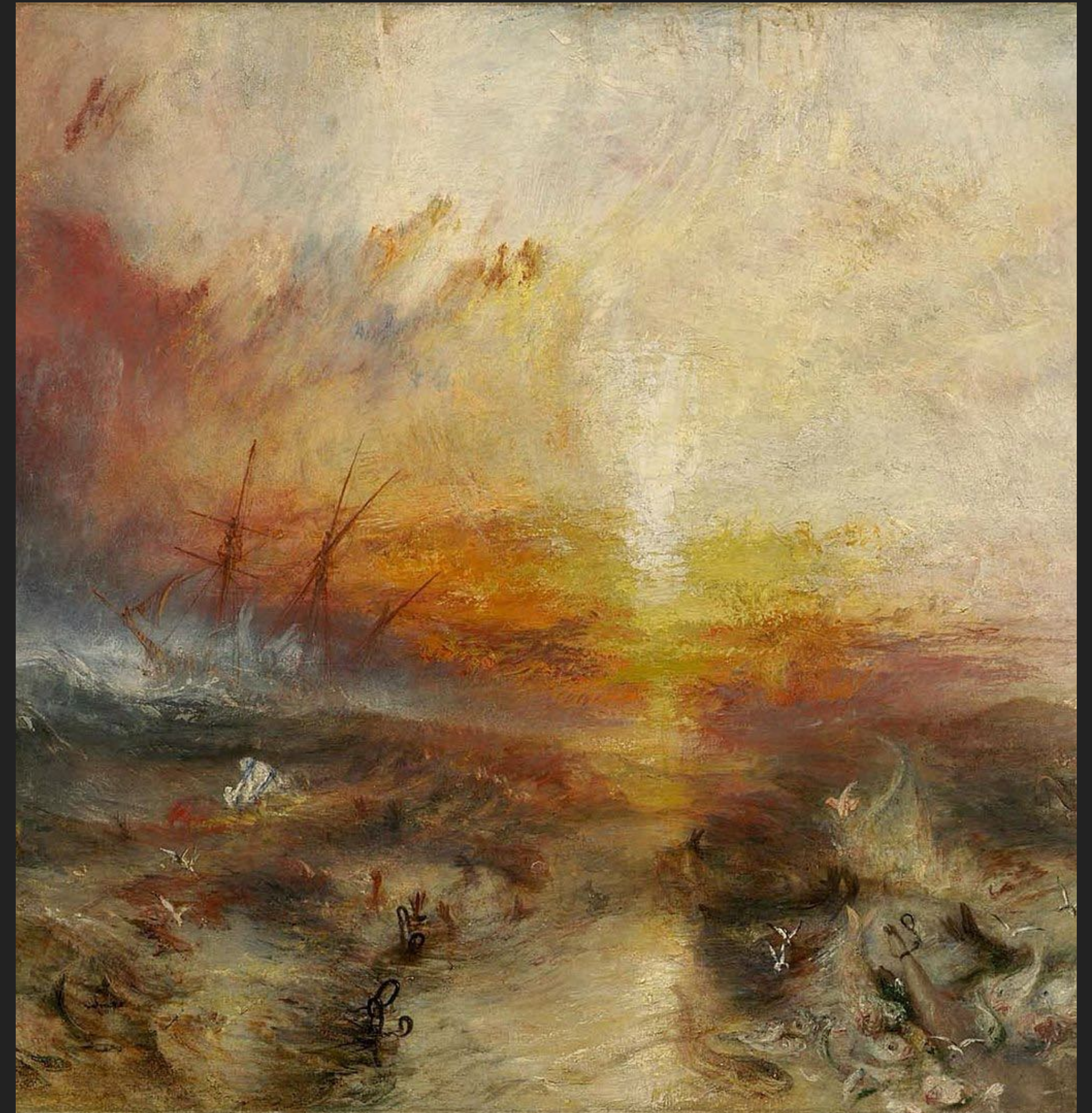
## FORM

- ▶ ROMANTICISM (the SUBLIME)
- ▶ Abstract, fabricated quality
- ▶ Makes it difficult to discern the subject matter and the action of the scene
- ▶ "Turner uses intense colors and turbulent brushstrokes to convey the heightened emotion of the event."



# FUNCTION

- ▶ Wanted to protest any reconsideration on the subject
- ▶ Prevent slavery from ever becoming a normalized practice in the future with a harsh reminder
- ▶ To shock the critics and general audience into seeing just how brutal slavery could be, and why it shouldn't ever come back
- ▶ Tell a story
- ▶ Moral of the story being you are morally condemned if you participate in such a horrific, dehumanizing practice
- ▶ Slave ship is doomed to wreck because of the actions of its captain
- ▶ Communicate sympathy and judgment



## CONTENT

- ▶ A ship (slave ship) sailing directly into a storm, abandoning the slaves that were thrown overboard to drown
- ▶ Fiery sunset, writhing foam and waves



## CONTENT

- ▶ Fish with teeth chomping at the slaves' chained limbs
- ▶ A wall of water and grey clouds dooming the ship to shipwreck (as punishment and vengeance for the death of slaves; upsetting of the balance of nature)
- ▶ "Turner's chaotic canvas shows a fierce storm. Body parts, still shackled and being attacked by sharp-teethed fish, can be seen in the central and right foreground."



## CONTEXT

- ▶ J.M.W. Turner (1775 - 1851)
- ▶ Twenty or so years before Impressionist movement; Turner uses techniques that are not yet popular
- ▶ Man vs. nature (popular theme during late 1700s and early 1800s)
- ▶ Slavery was banned in Britain, but not in some of the countries it had colonized (e.g. the United States of America)

