115. Olympia. Édouard Manet. 1863 C.E. Oil on canvas.

**Form: Transition from REALISM to IMPRESSIONISM**

Imperfect, harsh style depicting a woman in a manner that does not fit the classical "ideal" and ethereal image of the body

Flatly painted, poorly contoured, abrupt shift in tonality, lacking depth and washed out

No vanishing point or recognizable perspective - hard to understand in space

Loose, choppy brush strokes (clearly a painted representation)

**Function:**

To rebel from previous convention and depict harsh realities of Parisian life

To show ordinary people and unglamorous prostitution

A commentary on racial divisions and the class system in Paris

**Context:**

This is a salon painting (academic painting) that defied tradition, creating an artistic revolution. This received extreme negative reviews from critics in 1865 at the Parisian Salon

It "bewildered" the Parisians and was seen as scandalous and an insult to tradition, caused unease amongst viewers because he shamelessly and obviously depicts a defiant looking prostitute, which unnerved viewers

Both a nude prostitute and a black maid were seen as inferior

Manet mocked the revitalization of classical style by using a contemporary, ordinary subject. He suggested that the classical past no longer had relevance in the modern world. Manet rejected controlled brush strokes and seamless illusionism

Time of the industrial revolution (linked to the separation from the outdated, classical past)

He recreated the Venus of Urbino but Manet's creation was believed to be disrespectful and insulting to it

Manet referred to as the father of impressionism, his "rebellious" style inspired future work

Considered the first modernist painter in his technique and subjects

Manet's realist predecessor was Gustave Courbet and drew inspiration from Velasquez and Goya and Dutch painters

The model was Victorine Meurent

Manet highlighted the injustice of colonial viewpoints, the anxieties of the class system (since many rural people moved to the growing cities), and the uncertainty of the modern world

"Olympia" was a common name for prostitutes

**Compare with:**

Venus of Urbino

Other female nudes

A black female servant stands behind her holding a bouquet of flowers (a gift for the prostitute from a client)

Highlights the french colonial mindset and injustice in society

the stark contrast of the black skin from the white highlighted racial division

**IMPRESSONISM**

BROOM

Brilliant color

Rapid brush strokes

Oblique (slanting) composition

Outdoor light

Modern moments