Form

Gritty texture

Follows a traditional landscape painting

Diagonal lines of the roof recede backwards into the painting

IMPRESSIONISM

"BROOM" Brilliant color, Rapid brush strokes, Oblique (slanting) composition, Outdoor light, Modern moments

Function

Emphasis on the painting’s surface and paint.

To capture the industrialization and modernization of Paris.

For Monet to establish himself as a relevant, valuable artist in French society as it industrialized

Industrialization was such a massive societal shift that it could not go ignored by anyone who felt themselves an engaged member of society.

To capture a beautiful moment in time in the busy, urban streets of Paris

Comings and goings by train into Paris -- day-to-day

Modern bourgeoisie emerging as center of the society

Locomotive train pulls into the station, under triangular roofing

Steam dissolves into the air

Perspective lines and foreshortening used expertly to create the realism of the train

No traditional lines or contours; very innovative and atypical modeling.

Context:

Monet wanted to be remembered as an painter of the ‘modern’ world.

Monet lived in Argenteuil, a province outside of Paris (rural). Monet commuted into Paris via the Gare Saint-Lazare, or the Saint-Lazare Station

The station was a symbol of modernity and industrialized commuter railways.

Produced in 1876–1877, just a few years before the first Impressionist exhibition.

The roads and train stations of Paris had recently been renovated and modernized under Baron Haussmann

Unusually modern and industrial for Monet; he usually painted water-lilies