

PISSARRO

FATHER *of* IMPRESSIONISM

DIRECTED BY **DAVID BICKERSTAFF** | PRODUCED BY **PHIL GRABSKY** | MUSIC BY **ASA BENNETT**

From the Director

Every time I begin an Exhibition on Screen project, I am filled with anticipation and excitement to discover something new about the artist I am exploring. Camille Pissarro is no different. Born a Danish citizen to a Jewish family on the Caribbean island of St. Thomas, Pissarro became a dedicated family man, generous with his advice, passionate about experimentation, well-read, astute, socially aware and an anarchist. He was a great letter writer which is a gift for a documentary film maker as it gives an intimate insight into Pissarro's thoughts about the world he lived in, the influence he had on other practitioners and his unerring approach to making art.

I am grateful to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and the Kunstmuseum in Basel, who have been incredibly generous with access to their Pissarro exhibitions. It has given our cameras lots of time to linger on his work with great detail. The Ashmolean's collection of works by Camille Pissarro is the largest in the world. It is difficult to identify Pissarro's most famous work, but the one thing that has become apparent to me while making this film is that Pissarro's distinctive and experimental depiction of the French countryside and Parisien streets defined what we now understand to be great impressionist painting. **David Bickerstaff**

Filmed at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford and Kunstmuseum, Basel.

The Ashmolean Museum's *Pissarro: Father of Impressionism* exhibition is open until 12th June 2022



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