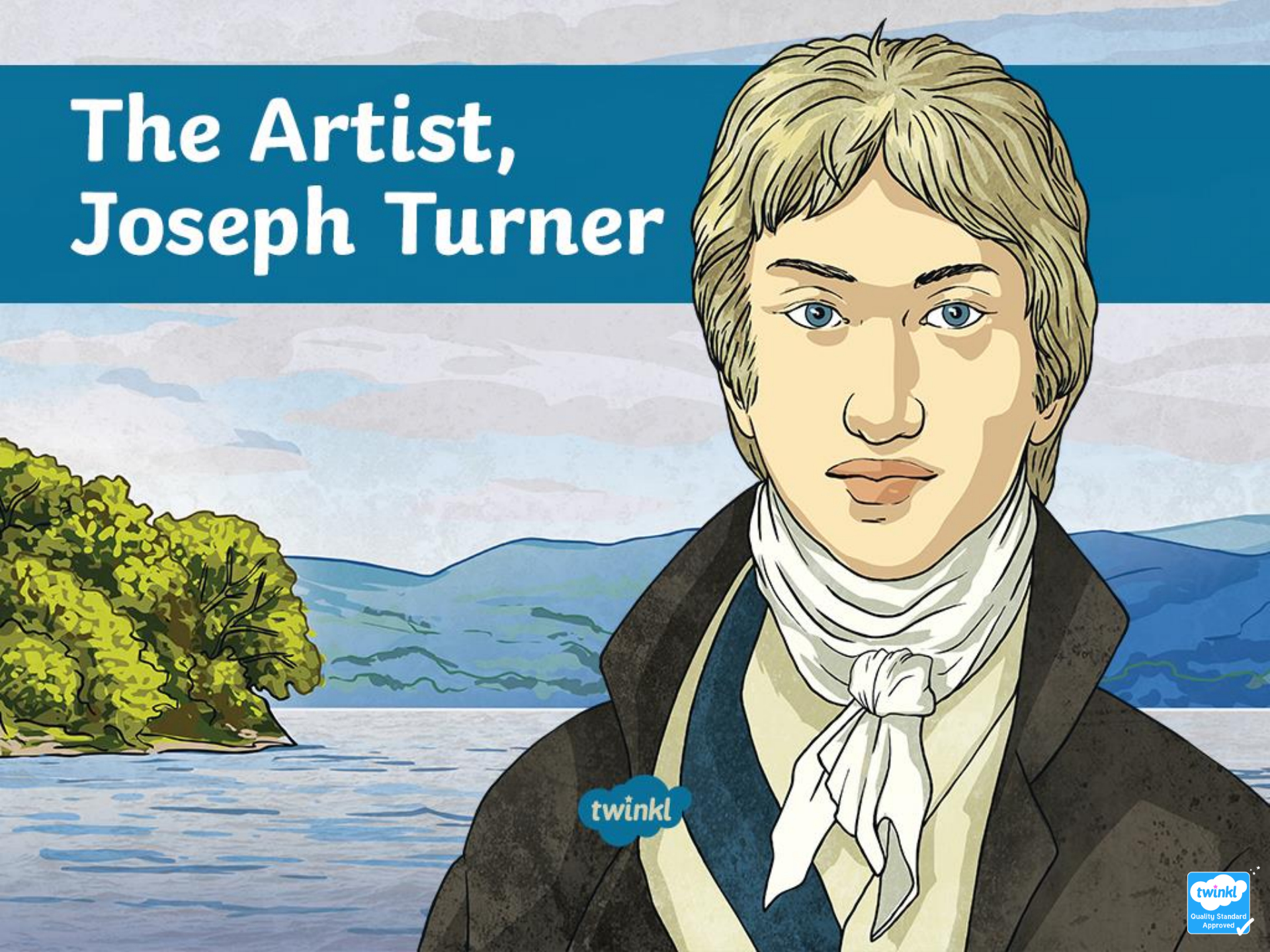


The Artist, Joseph Turner



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A Londoner

Joseph Mallord William Turner was born in April 1775 in Covent Garden, London. His father, William, was a barber and wigmaker and his mother was called Mary.

Joseph's father was supportive of his artistic talent and would display his son's early drawings in his shop.

Joseph Turner kept his Cockney accent all his life.



Did You Know?

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The Royal Academy of Arts

Joseph attended the Royal Academy of Arts school in 1789 and was accepted into the academy the following year.



Although Joseph was interested in architecture, he was advised to carry on painting watercolour pictures. He sold some of his watercolour paintings to help pay for his fees at the Academy.



Did You Know?

Joseph Turner was only fourteen years old when he started studying at the Academy.

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Capturing the Light

Joseph Turner began sketching outside, using these as a basis for his paintings, indoors. This led to him touring the country during the summer and working in the studio in the winter.

He became known as “The Painter of Light”.

In 1796, he exhibited his first painting in oils: ‘Fishermen at Sea’.



As you look at the following paintings, think about why Turner was known as “The Painter of Light”.



Did You Know?

Fishermen at Sea



What are your thoughts about this painting?

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Painter of Light

One of Joseph Turner's most famous paintings is called 'The Fighting Temeraire Tugged to Her Last Berth to Be Broken Up' and is on display at the National Gallery in London.



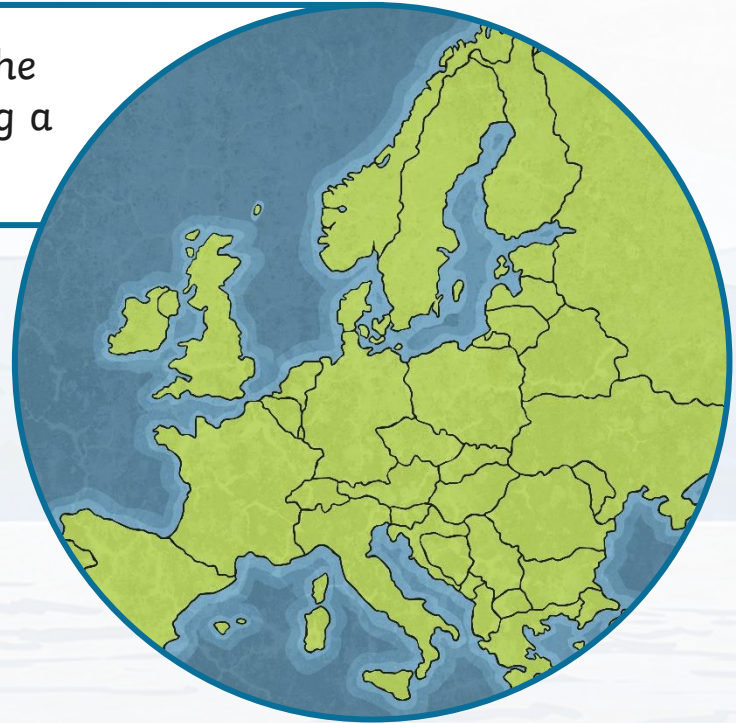
How would you describe
Turner's painting technique?

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Travel

Turner began to travel around Europe, becoming known as one of the greatest masters of watercolour landscapes.

He travelled to Belgium and Holland to see the sight of the Battle of Trafalgar after receiving a royal commission to paint the battle.



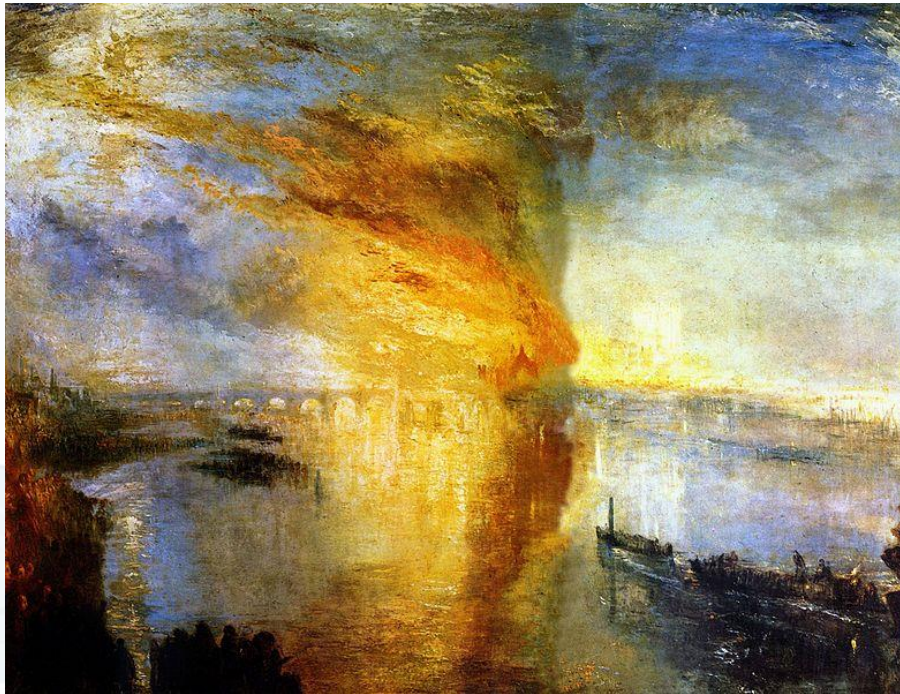
The Battle of Trafalgar 1806



This painting was a royal commission for Turner. He travelled to Belgium and Holland to see where the battle took place.

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The Burning of the Houses of Parliament 1835



On 16th October 1835, a fire broke out in the Houses of Parliament in London. Turner sketched the scene at the spot and went on to paint some of his most famous masterpieces.

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The Fighting Temeraire, Tugged to Her Last Berth to Be Broken Up 1839



This ship was used in the Battle of Trafalgar but this painting documents when it was being tugged to be used for scrap.

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Dido Building Carthage 1815



Turner became influenced by Greek mythology.
This painting is one of his most famous from this period.

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Towards the Light

On 19th December 1857, Joseph Mallord William Turner died after contracting cholera. He was buried in St Paul's Cathedral, London, near two of his artist friends who had passed away years before.

He left money for an elaborate funeral and a monument to be built in his memory. This resulted in a marble statue, sculpted by Patrick MacDowell, being created in 1862, which now stands in the nave of the cathedral.



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