

Joseph Mallord William Turner - Timeline

- 1775 Turner was born in Maiden Lane, London on April 23 as the son of the barber and wig-maker William Turner and his wife Mary, née Marshall.
May 14: Baptised in St. Paul's Church, Covent Garden.
- 1778 Sister Mary Ann born.
- 1786 Mary Ann dies.
- 1789 Turner joins the office of leading London architectural draughtsman Thomas Malton. In December Turner is accepted as a student at the Royal Academy School, becomes acquainted with the architect Sir John Soane and the landscape watercolourist William Frederick Wells.
- 1790 Takes part for the first time in the Spring Exhibition at the Royal Academy with a watercolour, from now on participating annually in the Spring Exhibition with watercolours, and oil paintings, too, from 1796.
- 1792 Journey to Wales.
- 1793 Awarded the Greater Silver Palette by the Royal Society of Arts for a landscape drawing; makes first acquaintance with Dr. Thomas Monro, the arts patron and art collector who was to be so important for Turner later on and in whose art collection Turner also had the opportunity to produce copies
- 1794 Journey through the Midlands to North Wales
- 1795 Commissioned by art collector Sir Richard Colt Hoare from Stourhead, Wiltshire, to produce a series of views of Salisbury; journey to Wales and to the Isle of Wight
- 1797 Journey to North England
- 1798 Beginning of Turner's lifelong close relationship with Sarah Danby, widow of the composer John Danby, who died that year. Turner had two daughters with her, Evelina and Georgina, but never made this relationship public.
- 1799 Becomes acquainted with the art collector William Beckford and stays at the latter's residence Fonthill Abbey in Wiltshire; journey to Wales; elected to Associate Member of the Royal Academy
- 1801 Journey to Scotland; moves from Norton Street to Harley Street, London
- 1802 Travels to Paris and to the Swiss Alps; elected as Full Member of the Royal Academy
- 1804 Turner's mother dies in a state of mental derangement.
Dispute with members of the Royal Academy; reacts by opening his own picture gallery in his own home in Harley Street in London, where Turner presents many of his works to the public in the years that follow

- 1806 Takes part in the exhibition at the British Institution; rents a house in Hammersmith, which he keeps till 1811
- 1807 Appointed Professor of Perspective at the Royal Academy, though Turner is not to hold his first lecture until 1811
- 1808 Stays at the residence of art collector Walter Ramsden Fawkes in Farnley Hall for the first time, to be repeated many times
- 1809 Meets the art collector Sir George O'Brien Windham, 3rd Earl of Egremont, frequent visits to his residence Petworth House, a centre of London's art world
- 1810 Turner moves into a new flat in Queen Anne Street, London
- 1811 Journey to Cornwall
- 1812 Turner has a country house built in Twickenham, Solus Lodge, which he renames Sandycombe Lodge. After a one-year break, Turner once again opens his own picture gallery, this time in Queen Anne Street West
- 1814 Publication begins of the printed work Picturesque Views on the Southern Coast of England
- 1815 Sculptor Antonio Canova visits Turner in London
- 1817 Visits Belgium, Holland and the Rheinland; begins work on the watercolour templates for the printed work Rivers of Europe
- 1818 Journey to Scotland
- 1819 Publication of Provincial Antiquities of Scotland written by author Sir Walter Scott with illustrations by Turner; presentation of forty of Turner's prints at the private home of collector Walter Ramsden Fawkes in London; travels to Italy from August 1819 to February 1820, journeys to Turin, Milan, Venice, Bologna, Rome and Naples; admission to the Accademia di San Luca in Rome.
- 1820 Presentation of the painting Rome, from the Vatican. Raffaele, Accompanied by La Fornarina, Preparing his Pictures for the Decoration of the Loggia in the Royal Academy
- 1821 Journey to Paris and North France
- 1822 Exhibition of seventeen of Turner's watercolours at the Cooke's Gallery in Soho Square, London; opening of a new picture gallery in Queen Anne Street, London, with structural alterations presumably in consultation with architect John Soane; begins work on watercolour templates for the printed work Rivers of England (unfinished)
- 1823 Exhibition of eleven watercolour paintings of Turner's in Cooke's Gallery in Soho Square in London

- 1824 Exhibition of fifteen watercolour paintings of Turner's in Cooke's Gallery in Soho Square in London; journey to Belgium, Luxembourg and the northern coast of France
- 1825 Journey to the Netherlands and Belgium; moves from Sandycombe Lodge to Queen Anne Street, London together with his father
- 1826 Journey to Brittany and to the Loire Valley; begins work on the watercolour templates for the printed work Ports of England (unfinished)
- 1827 Stays with the architect John Nash at his country estate East Cowes Castle on the Isle of Wight
- 1828 August 1828 to February 1829 journey to Paris, Lyon, Avignon, Florence to Rome, longer stay there and exhibition of his pictures in the Palazzo Trulli
- 1829 Exhibition of forty of Turner's watercolours in the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, London; journey to Paris and Normandy; death of Turner's father, who had lived with Turner since the death of his mother and had taken care of stretching the canvases.
- Turner draws up his First Will, which included his first bequest to the National Gallery of Dido Building Carthage and Decline of Carthage.
- 1830 Publication of Samuel Rogers' volume of poetry Italy with illustrations by Turner; journey to the Midlands
- 1831 Journey to Scotland.
- Turner's Second Will, replacing Decline of Carthage by Sun Rising through Vapour.
- 1832 Publication of the collected works of Lord Byron with illustrations by Turner; journey to Paris, where Turner meets Eugène Delacroix, among others;
- First extended stay in Margate, to be followed by many more;
- Turner becomes a member of the committee to erect a new building for the National Gallery in London.
- 1st Codicil to Second Will gave remaining Turners to be in rooms at Turner's Gift Almshouse.
- 1833 Publication of the printed work Wanderings by the Loire; exhibition of 94 of Turner's drawings in the Moon, Boys & Graves Gallery in London; journey via Munich, Salzburg and Vienna to Venice
- 1834 Publication of the Poetical Works written by author Sir Walter Scott with illustrations by Turner; publication of the printed work Wanderings by the Seine with illustrations by Turner; publication of Poems by Samuel Rogers with illustrations by Turner; journey along the Rhein to Koblenz; appointed Visiting Professor at the School of Painting at the Royal Academy
- 1835 Journey to Copenhagen, Berlin, Dresden, Prague and Nuremberg

- 1836 Journey to France, Switzerland and the Aosta Valley with the Scottish country aristocrat and art collector Hugh Andrew Johnstone Munro of Novar, who would later own the largest collection of Turner's works ever held in private hands
- 1837 Formal resignation as Professor of Perspective at the Royal Academy, Turner had already given his last lecture in 1829; journey to Paris
- 1838 Publication of the printed work Picturesque Views in England and Wales with illustrations by Turner
- 1839 Presentation of The Fighting Temeraire, tugged to her last berth to be broken up, in the Royal Academy, among other works; journey via Belgium along the Rhine to Koblenz and Würzburg; exhibition of forty watercolours by Turner in the Music Hall, Leeds
- 1840 First personal meeting between Turner and the art critic John Ruskin, who has already published a great deal on Turner; August to October, journey via Bregenz to Venice, return journey via Vienna and Munich
- 1841 Journey to Switzerland over the summer, longer stay in Lausanne
- 1842 Journey to Switzerland over the summer as far as Como and South Tyrol
- 1843 Journey to Switzerland over the summer as far as Como; publication of Modern Painters by John Ruskin, in which Turner's work is ardently defended
- 1844 Presentation of the famous painting Rain, Steam and Speed – The Great Western Railway in the Royal Academy, among other works;
Journey to Switzerland over the summer, return journey via Heidelberg.
Deed setting up his Almshouse drawn up formally. Conditions for eligible almsmen no longer restricted to men.
- 1845 Briefly assumes the tasks of the President of the Royal Academy; journey to Boulogne; journey to Dieppe and the Picardy coast, meets the French King Louis-Philippe in Eu; serious health problems
- 1846 Moves to Chelsea, where from now on he lives reclusively.
Revokes his Second Codicil.
- 1848 3rd Codicil of his Will gives his finished pictures (in addition to the two in his first Bequest) to the National Gallery under strict conditions.
4th Codicil added.
- 1849 5th Codicil added, changing the time limit for acceptance of his gift of Turner's Gallery.
- 1851 Dies in his house in Chelsea on December 19th and is buried in St. Paul's Cathedral in London

1856 The artistic estate previously located in his studio in Queen Anne Street, which has been bequeathed to the public in accordance with Turner's Will, is legally transferred to the National Gallery London; the estate itself had already been transferred to the museum in 1854.

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