

William Turner

14 May 1775 - 19 December 1851

British painter



Private life

- * born in London
- * father = barber & wig maker
- * mother suffered from mental illness
- * sent to live with an uncle
- * never married - 2 daughters
- * buried in St Paul's Cathedral, London

Career :

- began drawing at an early age
- by age 13, was selling drawings
- admitted to the Royal Academy of Arts in 1789
- displayed his work at the Royal Academy Exhibition in 1790
- traveled a lot through Europe and especially Venice
 - Known as the „painter of light“
- his works are regarded as a predecessor to Impressionism
- 1870 : professor of perspective at the Royal Academy
 - produced thousands of pieces throughout is career

What to remember of his art ?



landscape painter

brought luminosity and Romantic imagery to his subjects

his work — initially realistic — became more fluid and poetic

✿ most famous paintings : dido Building Carthage — the grand canal, Venice — rain, steam and speed