

# AGAPANTHUS TRIPTYCH 2

**Michael Cole-Fontayn, Chairman of Europe, Middle East & Africa**  
**Ann Dumas, Curator, Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse**  
**February 2016**

**Michael:** What do we think was behind Monet's intention in creating this vast work, and what was his inspiration?

**Ann:** The primary inspiration is of course the water lily pond at Giverny, which he himself had created. But he wanted, in these canvases, to get that immersive experience of actually sitting by the pond looking at the water and the lights and the reflections of the sky in the water.

Interestingly, it's also connected to his feelings about World War I, because he began on these large canvases in 1914. He was very aware of the war, some of the fighting was only 50 km from Giverny, and his son was called up to the front. At the end of the war, just one day after the Armistice, he presented a whole group of these large canvases to the French state as a gesture of peace.

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