

Romanticizing Turner

Growing industry and scientific inquiry in the Age of Reason created a yearning for the more emotional, imaginative side of human nature, leading to the literary and artistic movement of Romanticism. Chief among Romantic concerns was the “sublime”—the awe-inspiring yet violent and terrifying power of nature.



Van Tromp, Going About to Please His Masters, Joseph Mallord William Turner, 1844

What Romantic tendencies are evidenced in Turner’s life and work?

In thinking about Romanticism, are you reminded of any contemporary actors, movies, music, or other popular media that portray nature as more powerful than man? Who, what, and why?
