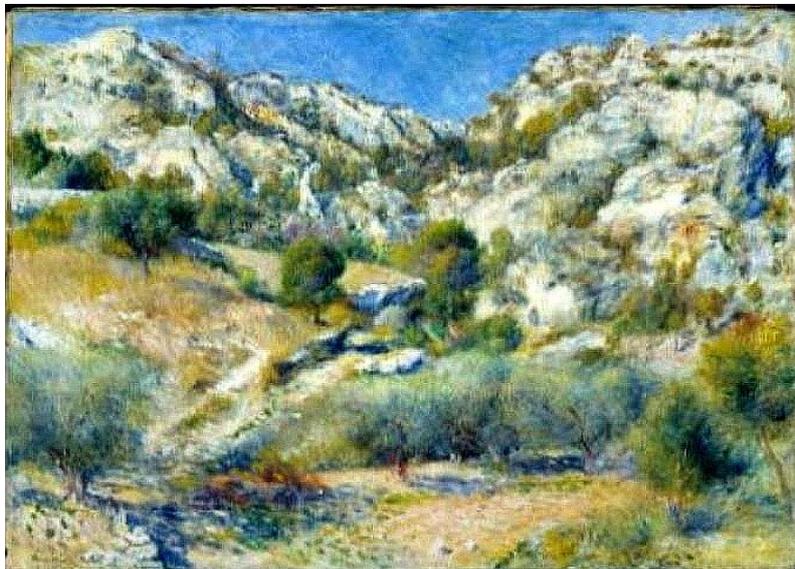




## **RENOIR PROJECT :« ESTAQUE – MISTRAL »**

### **Impressionisms Routes in Europe**



Pierre-Auguste Renoir. Les Rochers à l'Estaque (1882)  
Museum of Fine Arts Boston.

The "Estaque", a natural refuge for centuries fishermen and sailors of Marseille, place of call for merchant ships in past centuries and beautiful beaches with an exceptional view of the bay of Marseille, remains a village backed by mountains ... His legendary walk " Frédéric Mistral "always attracts tourists. But L'Estaque has also been a world-renowned name for art lovers and visitors to the world's greatest museums for 150 years thanks to the works of Cézanne, Renoir, Monticelli, Lhote, Braque, Derain, Dufy, Marquet, Camoin and Friesz. , Kandinsky ... and many others celebrated notably by Emile Zola.

With this remarkable "village", the city of Marseille has an exceptional artistic and tourist asset at a time when international cruises are making more and more stop at the Port of Joliette and where the MUCEM attracts a cultivated public ...

The "Eau & Lumière" association, created in 2009 with founding and participating communities such as Argenteuil, Chatou, Rueil-Malmaison, Bougival, Croissy-sur-Seine, Moret-sur-Loing, Barbizon and many European landscaping sites , today builds a European

network to highlight the cultural and tourist heritage attached to the life and work of the Impressionists. **The project "Impressionisms Routes" ©** is now selected for consideration by the Council of Europe for certification "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe". This project is carried out in close cooperation with the **euroArt Association** (44 sites in 14 European countries); he has received the support of the French Ministry of Culture and he is a candidate for the **European Year of the Cultural Heritage 2018 of the European Union**.

Among the artists present in the "Impressionisms Routes" © network, Pierre-Auguste Renoir occupies a very important place. The sites attached to the one who is considered one of the greatest artists of the nineteenth century, are already grouped in a network: Essoyes-en-Champagne where the painter and his wife, native of Essoyes, are buried, Paris and Montmartre, the municipalities of the Seine loop of the west of Paris: Chatou, Bougival, Croissy-sur-Seine, but also Pornic and Noirmoutiers as well as Pont-Aven and, of course, Cagnes-sur-Mer and the "Park and House of Collettes".

The Mediterranean extension of this network is now underway thanks to the contacts established by Eau & Lumière with the Italian sites where Renoir has exercised his talent and especially the Neapolitan Region.

In the Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur region, the trace of Renoir passes in particular by Marseille and Estaque and Cagnes-sur-Mer where the painter ended his life in the field of Collettes.

The many contacts between Eau & Lumière and l'Estaque and its associations date back several years. The realization of the book **"The Route of Painters in the Mediterranean"** published in 2015 in partnership with 30 Mediterranean cultural spaces, allowed us to forge close links with the cultural forces of the region.

Thus was born the idea of a preliminary project for the artistic and artistic renaissance of l'Estaque based on the enhancement of the life and work of the great painters who have frequented it for more than a century since the mid-nineteenth.

This approach, based on local experiences both in Estaque and in several cities of the Paris Region, would aim to revitalize the space and villa Mistral and give the Estaque district a major role in tourism development from Marseille.

These contacts, followed by a joint meeting of Associations on November 22, 2017, convinced Eau & Lumière officials that the arrival of the Estaque site within the "Impressionisms Routes" network would be highly desirable and certainly positive. For all: our network would include a prestigious site and known worldwide, Marseille and its region would benefit from the tourist and economic benefits generated by increased European visibility.

The project will be presented in early 2018 to the authorities of the City of Marseille and the Metropolis Aix-Marseille-Provence.