



The Hudson River School
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BRIEF BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Whittredge, Worthington Autobiography, 1942

Wilmerding, John American Light: The Luminist Movement, 1850-1875- Paintings, Drawings, Photographs, 1980

Yaeger, Bert The Hudson River School: American Landscape Artists, 2013

VOCABULARY

Claudian landscape—a popular ideal landscape formula inspired by Claude Lorrain consisting of such elements as framing trees, ruins, diminutive human figures, a body of water and distant mountains in foreground, middle ground and background.

en plein air—out-of-doors, before the motif

Historical landscape—a landscape elevated out of the mundane by incorporating a mythological, historical or biblical subject e.g. Noah giving thanks for deliverance from the Flood.

History painting—the highest echelon of painting, codified in the 17th century academies as (in descending order): history painting, portraiture, genre (scenes of everyday life), landscape and still life

Luminism—20th C art historical term for a 19th c. art style marked by a strong interest in light, an offshoot of the Hudson River School landscape tradition.

Pastoral landscape—a rural landscape which celebrates the dominion of mankind over nature, with staffage of sheep or other livestock, shepherds, cultivated land etc

Picturesque—ideal type of landscape that has an artistic appeal, in that it is beautiful but also with some elements of wildness or irregularity. Picturesque landscapes fall between beautiful and sublime. The theory of the picturesque was developed by William Gilpin (*Observations on the River Wye* 1770) and Jane Austen (among many) knew her Gilpin.

repoussoir--From the French verb meaning to "push back, " repoussoir is one of the pictorial devices of achieving perspective or spatial contrasts by the placement of an object in the immediate foreground of a painting to increase the illusion of depth in the rest of the picture. In a Hudson River School landscape, look for large trees in right or left foregrounds that "bracket" the central scene.

single work attraction—a 19th C cultural experience in which a single large-scale oil painting was displayed for spectators, entry by admission.

Sublime—According to the Tate Gallery definition: The Sublime is a theory developed by Edmund Burke in the mid -18th century, where he defined sublime art as art that refers to a greatness beyond all possibility of calculation, measurement or imitation, evoking the strongest emotions humankind is prey to: fear, awe, even terror. The notion that a legitimate function of art can be to produce upsetting or disturbing effects was an important element in Romantic art and remains fundamental to art today.

trompe l'oeil—meaning trick the eye—an optical illusion in a 2-D painting designed to make the viewer believe it is a 3-D scene

viewshed—a natural environment often protected for its importance to (in our case) art history

ARTISTS (more than can be addressed in this lecture)

Beers, Julie Hart 1835-1913

Bierstadt, Albert 1830-1902

Casilear, John Wm 1811-1893

Church, Frederic Edwin 1826-1900

Cole, Sarah 1805-1857

Cole, Thomas 1801-1848

Cropsey, Jasper Francis 1823-1900

Duncanson, Robert Seldon 1821-1872

Durand, Asher Brown 1796-1886

Gifford, Sanford Robinson 1823-1880

Greatare, Eliza Pratt 1819-1897

Hart, James 1828-1901

Hart, William 1823-1894

Heade, Martin Johnson 1819-1904

Johnson, David 1827-1908

Kensett, John Frederick 1816-1872

McEntee, Jervis 1828-1891

Palmer, Frances Bond "Fanny" illustrator for Currier & Ives 1812-1876

Peale, Harriet Cany 1799-1869

Richards, William Trost 1833-1915

Silva, Francis Augustus 1835-1986

Smillie, James 1807-1885 engraver of Hudson River School paintings

Sonntag, William Louis 1822-1900

Walters, Mary Josephine 1837-1883 student of Durand

Whittredge, Thomas Worthington 1820-1910

PATRONS, SUPPORTERS & INFLUENCES

Bryant, William Cullen 1794-1878 poet, newspaper editor

Dunlap, William 1766-1839

Gilmor, Robert Jr 1774-1848

Humboldt, Alexander von 1769-1859 German naturalist

Longworth, Nicholas 1783-1863

Reed, Luman 1787-1836

Stuart, Robert L. 1806-1882

Sturges, Jonathan 1802-1874

Talbot, Charles Nicholl 1802-1874

Trumbull, John, Colonel 1756-1843

Wadsworth, Daniel 1771-1848

Ward, Samuel 1786-1839

MAJOR COLLECTIONS OF HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL ART and HOMES TO VISIT

Albany Institute of History & Art (aiha)

Boston Museum of Fine Arts (boston mfa)

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art

Metropolitan Museum of Art (met)

New Britain Museum of American Art (nbmaa)

New-York Historical Society (n-yhs)

Newington-Cropsey Foundation, Hastings-on-Hudson

Olana State Historic Site, Hudson, NY

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (pafa)

Questroyal Fine Art LLC (New York art gallery)

Reynolds House, Winston-Salem (reynolda)

Thomas Cole House (Cedar Grove) < Catskill, NY

Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum, Madrid (thyssen)

Wadsworth Athenaeum, Hartford (w-a)

