

# The Hyde CONNECTION

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## Master Drawings of the Hudson River School from the Metropolitan Museum of Art

A survey of works on paper by America's early school of landscape painting, the Hudson River School, will be on view at The Hyde Collection from May 6 to June 19, 1994.

**Master Drawings of the Hudson River School** documents a pivotal period in American art when, inspired by the scenery of the Hudson River Valley and New England, artists made the first extensive efforts to document the fields, wilderness, and waterways of the American landscape. The pioneering work that emerged was hailed by contemporary critics as America's first truly native art movement.

The success of the Hudson River School has been attributed to these outdoor drawings, which range from intimately detailed studies of ferns and rocks, to panoramic vistas. Unprecedented in America in their fidelity to nature, these carefully-observed studies became guides for highly natu-



Paul Weber (1823-1916), *Wooded Landscape with Lake and Mountains*. Graphite & crayon on gouache-prepared paper. The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Purchase, Charles & Anita Blatt. Gift, 1970 (1970.9.15) From the exhibition, **Master Drawings of the Hudson River School**. (Photograph courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art)

ralistic paintings of forest interiors, mountain streams, and open farmland. Although most of the studies were not intended for public exhibition, their evocation of natural beauty transcends their original function as working studies.

The exhibition of nearly forty works reveals the full range of Hudson River School draftsmanship: from quickly-executed field notes in pencil, to

highly-finished sheets in watercolor and gouache. Painters represented include Thomas Cole (1801-1848), Asher B. Durand (1796-1886), John F. Kensett (1816-1872) and William Trost Richards (1833-1905), along with second-generation artists Jervis McEntee (1828-1891), William M. Hart (1823-1894), Aaron Draper Shattuck (1832-1928) and Jasper Francis Cropsey (1823-1900). Sketchbooks that reveal working techniques and the creative

process of individual artists are included.

Many wilderness scenes and resort sites in New York State and New England ultimately became famous, due in part to sketchings and paintings made during the careers of the Hudson River School artists. The

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