

**THE NEW YORK STATE CONGRESSIONAL
CHIEFS OF STAFF DELEGATION**

is invited to a breakfast on Capitol Hill
for a private viewing and gallery talk on the
19th C. Hudson River School of Painting Masters

Thursday February 14, 2013, 9:30a.m.

U.S. House of Representatives
Rayburn House Office Building



Gates of the Hudson from Fishkill Landing, 1874, Jasper F. Cropsey

PUBLIC VIEWING

Rayburn First Floor Foyer
Thursday February 14, 2013
Friday February 15, 2013

Sponsored by Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY)

Greg Wyatt, Director of Academy of Art,

Newington-Cropsey Foundation, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY

Barnabas McHenry, Chairman, Boscobel House & Gardens, Garrison, NY

*The images of the Hudson River School paintings matched to their modern day vistas,
exhibited in 2012 in "Reflections Renewed"*

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HONORING LEADERS OF THE HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL OF PAINTING



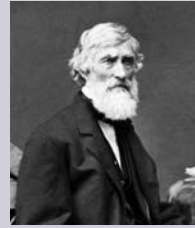
Thomas Cole



Frederic Edwin Church



Jasper F. Cropsey



Asher B. Durand

The Hudson River School was the first American form of art. Its emergence was fueled by the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 and reflected the meteoric rise of New York City as the front door to the American continent. Earlier efforts to capture our landscape on canvas attempted to depict the wilderness as something civilized, which it was not. A young Thomas Cole took a steamboat ride up the Hudson River and produced three paintings that made front page news of the New York Evening Post on Nov. 22, 1825. These pictures enchanted the nation as they revealed the savage autumnal beauty of the American landscape. Cole's vision was a wilderness where immigrants had a new start in a new world, where Europe had failed, America was God's promise of hope renewed, where ideas of intellectual, social and religious freedom flourished as a virgin continent invited exploration and prosperity awaited the hardworking.

Other artists followed Cole, Asher B. Durand, Jasper F. Cropsey, Frederic Edwin Church, among others, all captured the rugged beauty of the American continent, channeled in their course of travel by the Hudson and its man-made highway to the Great Lakes and Mississippi, beyond the Erie Canal. That was what established this unique American style of art all the while making New York the choice destination for European immigrants to reach this country. From 1825 until a decade after the Civil War, this School was the dominant aesthetic of America, but the vast amount of bloodshed in the War stained the ideals of the American landscape, and caused the native school to go into steep decline, superseded by European trends like Impressionism, Cubism and Abstraction. Indeed this American school fell into such utter obscurity that it wasn't until almost a century later when these relics were wielded by Conservationists in the 1960's as an example of what American the beautiful once looked like, and that laws should be passed to clean up the air and waters of what had become a heavily industrialized nation. The paintings once relegated to museum storerooms and attics became popular again, but our knowledge of their context remains hampered by that century of neglect. However, as symbols they worked, since vistas once smothered by smog have cleared up revealing in many cases startlingly similar scenes to what Cole and company painted. Paradise rediscovered.

S. RES. 278

Honoring the Hudson River School Painters for their contributions to the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

September 21, 2009

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DODD, Mr. SANDERS and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

September 29, 2010

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to. Resolution agreed to in Senate without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent

RESOLUTION

Honoring the Hudson River School Painters for their contributions to the United States.

Whereas the Hudson River School was a mid-19th century American art movement led by a group of landscape painters, whose aesthetic vision was influenced by the romanticism movement;

Whereas the Hudson River School is considered the first school of American art;

Whereas the major Hudson River School painters included Thomas Cole, Frederic Edwin Church, Asher Brown Durand, Jasper Francis Cropsey, Sanford Robinson Gifford, Albert Bierstadt, John Frederick Kensett, George Inness, Worthington Whittredge, and Thomas Moran;

Whereas the Hudson River School paintings captured the striking landscape and sweeping natural beauty of the Hudson River Valley and the surrounding New York areas, including the Catskill, the Adirondack, and the White Mountains;

Whereas Hudson River School paintings served a vital role in cultivating American identity in the mid-19th century and creating a sense of awe of the American landscape that endures to this day;

Whereas the Hudson River School painters influenced the environmental conservation movement and the establishment of the National Park System under President Theodore Roosevelt;

Whereas the Hudson River School's portrayal of the Hudson River Valley is a major source of tourism in the region;

Whereas 2009 marks the 400th anniversary of the voyages of discovery made by Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain, recognizing the important role that the Hudson River and the Hudson Valley played in the development and growth of the United States;

Whereas the Hudson River School painters depicted the Hudson River Valley during the opening of the Erie Canal, which linked the Hudson River with the Great Lakes and created a main trade route from New York that fostered the city's central place in the American economy;

Whereas the Hudson River School painters celebrated the ideals of American democracy, individuality, and progress;

Whereas the Hudson River School painters illustrated themes such as nature, conservation, civility, unity, education, family, chivalry, and development;

Whereas the Hudson River School painters expressed the sense that every generation of Americans should seek to preserve the naturalness of the continent; and

Whereas the Hudson River School painters accentuated the cardinal values of the 19th century, which can assist contemporary Americans in the rebirth of American culture: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and honors the Hudson River School painters for their contributions to the United States.



Greg Wyatt sculpting portrait of Thomas Cole



Work-in-progress, portrait of Frederic Edwin Church

Greg Wyatt is a graduate of Columbia University (Class of 1971), NYC where he majored in Art History. Some of his most notable works include:

The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York, NY. *Peace Fountain*, 1985

United States Department of State, North Courtyard of Harry S Truman Building, Washington, DC. *Soaring American Eagle*, 2000

Folger Shakespeare Library, Elizabethan Garden, Washington, DC. *Tempest, King Lear, Hamlet, Julius Caesar*, 2003; *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night, Macbeth, Henry IV, Part II*, 2004

Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, DC. *Two Sculptors, Forces of Nature, Eternal Spring, Transcendence*, 1999

Columbia University, New York, NY. *Scholars' Lion*, for Columbia's 250th anniversary, 2004

Harvard University, Winthrop House Courtyard, Cambridge, MA. *Bill of Rights Eagle, Unbound Slave, Spirit of the Dance*, 1996-2006

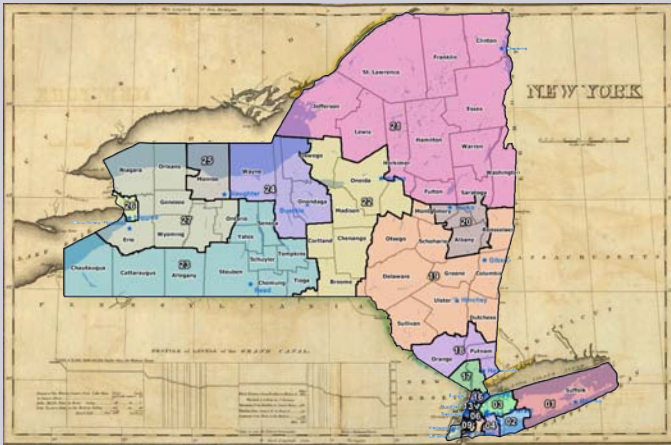
Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Shakespeare's Great Garden at New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, UK. *The Tempest*, 1999; *Hamlet*, 2000; *King Lear*, 2001; *Julius Caesar*, 2002; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Hall's Croft, 2003; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, 2005; *Falstaff/Henry IV*, 2006; *Macbeth*, 2007; *The Winter's Tale*, 2008



Work-in-progress, portrait of Jasper F. Cropsey



Work-in-progress, portrait of Asher B. Durand



New York State Congressional Districts, 113th Congress



Kindred Spirits, 1849, Asher B. Durand



Niagara, 1857, Frederic Edwin Church

Alexander Boyle is a graduate of Trinity College, CT where he majored in History. Prior to graduation he co-authored the seminal book *Acid Rain* in 1983. Alex has worked for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, PBS, galleries and an auction house as well as published magazine articles on American painting and the emergence of the Hudson River School. His article on the Hudson was a base for the 2002 PBS file, *America's First River*, *Bill Moyers of the Hudson* where Alex was featured in part one: *Stories from the Hudson*. In 2012 he curated an exhibition at Boscobel in Garrison, NY, across from West Point, which paired twenty famous Hudson River School paintings to images of the modern day. The exhibition documented how clean up efforts enacted by Congress succeeded beyond imagination at restoring the vistas where the Hudson River School painted



The Oxbow, 1836, Thomas Cole