

Thomas Cole

The biography and artwork.

The work by Samus Denis

History of Thomas

- Thomas Cole (February 1, 1801 – February 11, 1848) was an American artist. He is regarded as the founder of the Hudson River School, an American art movement that flourished in the mid-19th century. Cole's Hudson River School, as well as his own work, was known for its realistic and detailed portrayal of American landscape and wilderness, which feature themes of romanticism.



Thomas Cole

•Early life and education

He was born in Bolton, Lancashire, England, in 1801. In 1818 his family emigrated to the United States, settling in Steubenville, Ohio, where Cole learned the rudiments of his profession from a wandering portrait painter named Stein. However, he had little success painting portraits, and his interest shifted to landscape. Moving to Pittsburgh in 1823 and then to Philadelphia in 1824, where he drew from casts at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, he rejoined his parents and sister in New York City early in 1825. In 1826, he helped found the National Academy of Design.



The Oxbow (The Connecticut River near Northampton) (1836)



Painting

Cole was primarily a painter of landscapes, but he also painted allegorical works. The most famous of these are the five-part series, *The Course of Empire*, which depict the same landscape over generations—from a near state of nature to consummation of empire, and then decline and desolation—now in the collection of the New York Historical Society and the four-part *The Voyage of Life*.

Friends of Thomas Cole

Frederic Edwin Church (May 4, 1826 – April 7, 1900) was an American landscape painter born in Hartford, Connecticut.

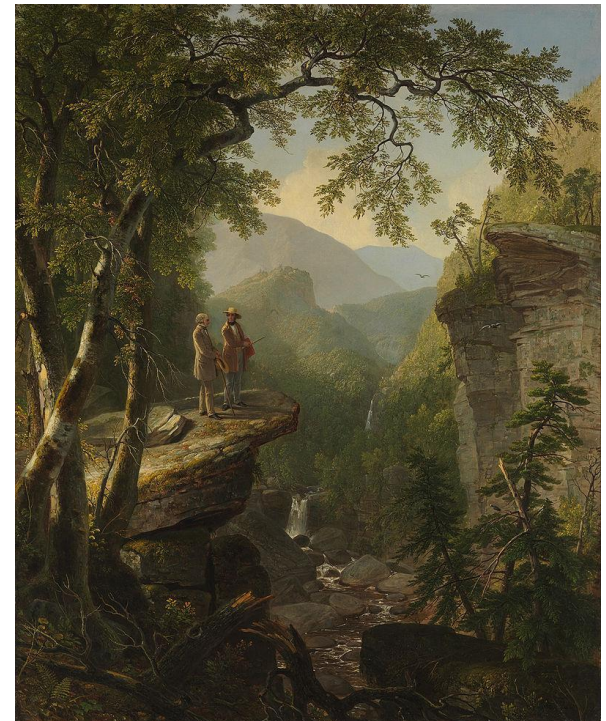
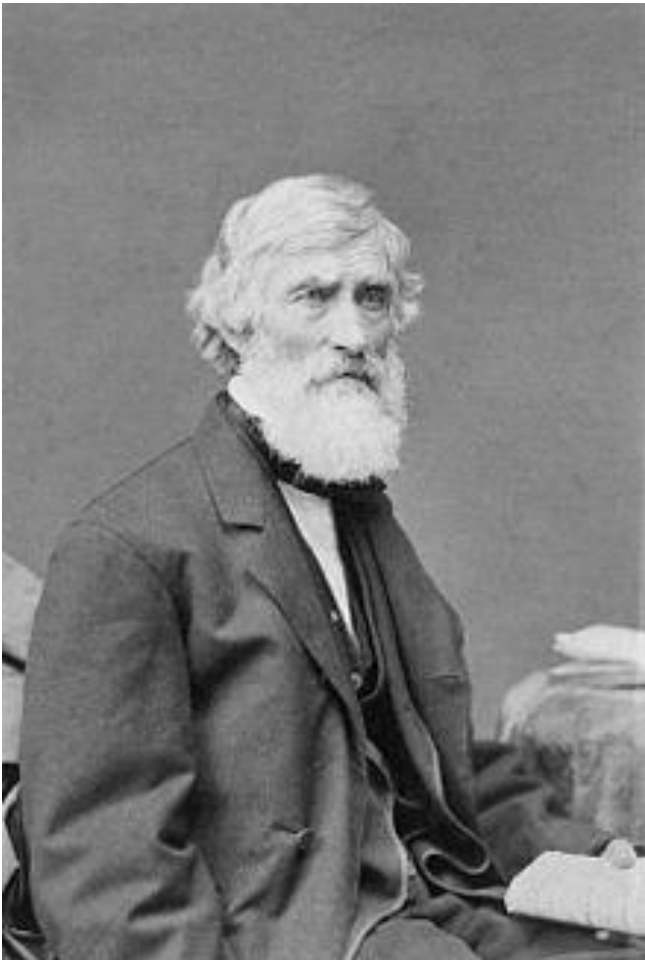


Cotopaxi, 1855



Asher Brown Durand

Asher Brown Durand (August 21, 1796 – September 17, 1886) was an American painter of the Hudson River School.



Asher Durand, *Kindred Spirits*.

INFLUENCE OF FRIENDS AT ARTS OF THOMAS.

Cole influenced his artistic peers, especially Asher B. Durand and Frederic Edwin Church, who studied with Cole from 1844 to 1846. Cole spent the years 1829 to 1832 and 1841 to 1842 abroad, mainly in England and Italy.

Graphic work

Thomas Cole is best known for his work as an American landscape artist. However, Cole also produced thousands of sketches of varying subject matter. Over 2,500 of these sketches can be seen at The Detroit Institute of Arts.

