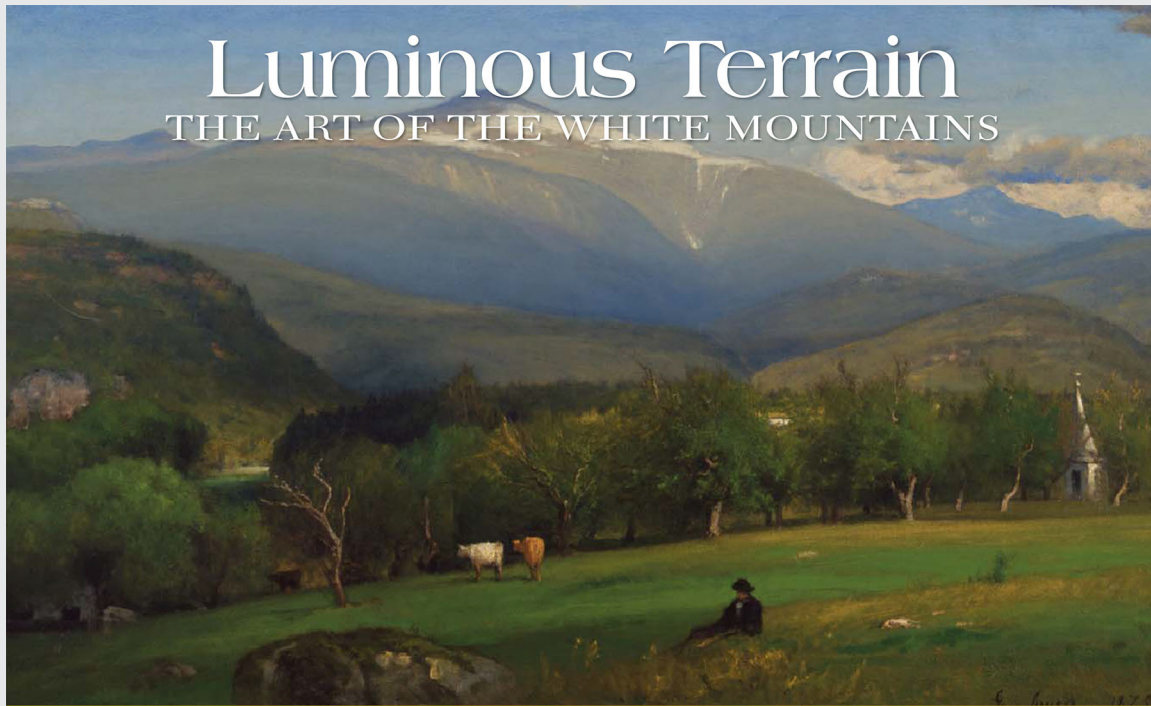


# Lamont Gallery Exhibition Archive

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MONDAY, MARCH 25 – SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2013 Lamont Gallery, Phillips Exeter Academy

## *Luminous Terrain: The Art of the White Mountains* March 25 - May 4, 2013



Albert Bierstadt, *South and North Moat Mountains*,  
Not dated, Oil on canvas

*Luminous Terrain: The Art of the White Mountains*, features more than 40 paintings of New Hampshire and the White Mountains' landscapes from Hudson River School artists. Drawn from the collections of four Phillips Exeter Academy alumni (classes of 1943, 1951 and 1965), the exhibition includes paintings that depict the emerging connections between the landscape, culture and the development of national identity.

The partners for this exhibition are: **The Banks Gallery**, Portsmouth, NH; **The Westmoreland Museum of American Art**, Greensburg, PA; **The Fitchburg Art Museum**, Fitchburg, MA; and the **Jackson Historical Society**, Jackson, NH. It is supported by the Charles J. Tanenbaum Library Fund, and Gail and Steve Rineberg '55.

The natural world, for such artists as **Thomas Cole**, **Benjamin Champney** and **Alfred Thompson Bricher**, symbolized moral fortitude as well as spiritual renewal. The sites the artists depicted, including Mount Washington and Franconia Notch, inspired awe and curiosity. During that period, an article from The New York Times noted, “Here are elevation, immensity, grandeur—a country of vast and rugged proportions. . . .”



Hendrik-Dirk Kruseman Van Elten, *Mount Lafayette from Coffin Pond*, 1868, Oil on canvas

The art of the White Mountains served partly as a catalyst and means for the growth of tourism in the region, and greatly influenced the intrepid visitor’s understanding of landscape as destination, genre and state of mind. ***Luminous Terrain*** offers a glimpse into a fascinating period of American history, as well as provides an opportunity for viewers to reflect on what the landscape means today. A catalog with an introductory essay by Karen Quinn, the Kristin and Roger Servison Curator of Paintings at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, will be included with this exhibition.

Among the more than 20 featured artists are: **Albert Bierstadt**, who came to New Bedford, MA, from Germany when he was a year old. He studied at the Düsseldorf School of Painting in Munich, Germany, returned to the U.S., and painted landscapes in New England and New York; Champney, who is considered one of the founders of the White Mountain School of painting. In 1846, after painting a large panorama of the Rhine River, he returned to North Conway, NH, and continued painting the White Mountains, drawing artists from Boston and New York to the area; **George Inness**, who was one of the most successful landscape painters of his time. Initially working as a map engraver, he studied briefly with painters John Jesse Barker and Régis François Gignoux. Inness also studied abroad for several years before returning to the U.S. His son, George Jr., was also a noted landscape painter; and **John Frederick Kensett**, who studied engraving and worked as a of



bank note engraver in his early years. He studied painting with **Asher Brown Durand** and John William Casilear in Europe. While overseas, Kensett met Champney, and the two traveled together, sketching and painting. He also traveled to the mountains of New York, New England and Colorado (the Rockies). Kensett's painting, *Mount Washington from the Valley Conway*, ultimately helped popularize the White Mountains.

Works from other famous artists in this exhibit include: **Thomas Cole**, who's called the "Father of the Hudson River School of Art"; Durand, who painted several U.S. presidents; **Jasper Francis Cropsey**, who is referred to as "America's painter of autumn" and was co-founder of the American Society of Painters in Water Colors; **William Louis Sonntag Sr.**, who painted in dramatic style, spent summers sketching in the mountains of New England, West Virginia and Florence, Italy, and is known for his romantic landscapes; and **Paul Gottlieb Weber**, who was a well-known painter and art instructor in Philadelphia, PA, where one of his students was painter **William Trost Richards**.

Lamont Gallery Director Lauren O'Neal says, "What is especially intriguing about this exhibition is how the landscapes have changed. What George Inness, Benjamin Champney and **Samuel Lancaster Gerry** saw were not necessarily what they painted. They took some amount of poetic license here and there to render the landscapes more dramatic, more contemplative, and more utopian."

#### **Complete List of Artists:**

Bierstadt, Bricher, Harrison Bird Brown, Champney, Charles Codman, Cole, Samuel Colman, Cropsey, Asher Durand, Alvan Fisher, Gerry, Sanford Robinson Gifford, William McDougal Hart, Martin Johnson Heade, Inness, David Johnson, Kensett, Jervis McEntee, John Adams Parker, Richards, Horace Wolcott Robbins, A.D. Shattuck, Russell Smith, Sonntag Sr., Isaac Sprague, Hendrik-Dirk Kruseman Van Elten, Weber, Laura Woodward and Alexander Helwig Wyant.



John Adams Parker, *Summit of Mt. Chocorua*, 1863, Oil on canvas

#### **Related Links**

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