

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, D.C., March 15, 1964. John Walker, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today the gift to the Gallery of two important paintings by American artists, Fanciful Landscape by Thomas Doughty and Autumn on the Hudson River by Jasper Francis Cropsey. Both were given by the Avalon Foundation.

"The National Gallery has for a long time needed landscapes to round out its American collection," Mr. Walker said, "so these two fine pictures are especially welcome. The painting by Doughty, dated 1834, represents the early period of pure landscape painting in this country. The large Hudson River scene by Cropsey, measuring 5 by 9 feet, is dated 1860, about the time when vast panoramic views glorifying the American scene were coming into fashion.

Thomas Doughty (1793-1856), who began his painting career in 1820, was one of the first artists of this country to specialize in landscapes. He is usually considered the father of the Hudson River School of painting. He made his home in Philadelphia until 1832, then moved to Boston where he painted the Fanciful Landscape (30-1/8 in. x 39-7/8 in.). With its imaginary mountain scenery and ruined castles, dramatically lit, this picture reflects Doughty's romantic approach to landscape. When Fanciful Landscape was painted Doughty had not been abroad, and it may be that the inspiration for the picture was an engraving of some European scene.

Autumn on the Hudson River was painted by Jasper Francis Cropsey (1823-1900), one of the outstanding Hudson River School artists of the second generation. The picture was finished during a long sojourn in London from sketches made in the United States. The view is from a height between Newburgh and West Point on the west shore of the Hudson, looking south; the time is late afternoon of a warm autumn day after the foliage has begun to turn. As is typical with paintings by Cropsey, Autumn on the Hudson River cannot be fully appreciated until it is examined in detail. It will be seen to be teeming with wild and domesticated animal life and the evidence of man's habitation. When the picture was shown

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in 1862 at the great International Exhibition in London, it was considered "the great adornment" of the American section.

Fanciful Landscape and Autumn on the Hudson River are on view in Gallery 69A.

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Photographs and further information available through J. Carter Brown, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. (20565).
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