

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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## NATIONAL GALLERY TO PRESENT CONNECTICUT LANDSCAPES

BY AMERICAN IMPRESSIONIST JOHN TWACHTMAN

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 2, 1989 - American impressionist John Henry Twachtman's paintings of Connecticut landscapes, considered to be among his finest works, will be presented in the East Building of the National Gallery of Art from October 15, 1989, to January 28, 1990. John Twachtman: Connecticut Landscapes, organized by the Gallery, is the last in a series of three tightly focused exhibitions of works by masters of American impressionism. The series, supported over the last three years by Bell Atlantic, also celebrated the achievements of William Merritt Chase in 1987 and Childe Hassam in 1988.

The exhibition contains more than twenty-five paintings created by Twachtman between 1889 and 1901 on his farm in Greenwich, Connecticut, and nearby locations. The paintings, drawn from private and public collections throughout the United States, represent an important passage in Twachtman's career and one of the major episodes in American impressionism.

"We are very pleased to be able to conclude this series of focused exhibitions with a show that reveals the artistic maturity of John Twachtman, one of the most admired of all American impressionists," said J. Carter Brown, director of the National Gallery of Art.

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Twachtman was born to German immigrant parents in Cincinnati, Ohio, on August 4, 1853. His career encompassed years in Germany and France and visits to renowned American sites such as Niagara Falls and Yellowstone, but his talents came together most felicitously in a series of landscapes that he painted on his Greenwich farm and in nearby Cos Cob.

The works in John Twachtman: Connecticut Landscapes are stylistically different from his earlier Munich and Barbizon-inspired paintings and his later, more broadly worked canvases. During his Greenwich period Twachtman chose to explore a single location under various kinds of light, and at different times of the year. He masterfully captured the moods evoked by these changing conditions while creating canvases of harmoniously interrelated forms.

The exhibition includes the National Gallery's Winter Harmony, a work that reflects Twachtman's affinity for the quiet poetry and delicate colors of winter scenes. A wooded area known as Hemlock Pool was the site depicted in Winter Harmony and in three other paintings in the exhibition: Icebound, Winter Silence, and Hemlock Pool. Close-up views of Horseneck Falls, landscapes featuring Twachtman's house and barn, and other sites on the artist's seventeen acres are also included in the exhibition.

Deborah Chotner, assistant curator of American painting at the Gallery, is the curator for the exhibition. A 120-page, fully illustrated exhibition catalogue includes essays by Lisa N. Peters, co-author of the forthcoming John Henry Twachtman Catalogue Raisonné; Kathleen A. Pyne, assistant professor, department of art, art history, and design, University of Notre Dame; and Chotner. The exhibition will travel to the Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut, March 18 - May 20, 1990.

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