



## HAWTHORNE

### Fine Art



**JERVIS MCENTEE (1828-1891)**

*Maurice Cottage, Adirondacks, 1888*

Oil on canvas

7 ½ x 10 ½ inches

Signed and dated 1888, lower left

Jervis McEntee was born in the Hudson River Valley, in Rondout, New York, in 1828. At the age of twenty-two, McEntee studied for a year with Hudson River School master, Frederic E. Church (1826-1900), in New York City. He then worked briefly in the flour and feed business before deciding, in 1855, to devote himself entirely to painting. He took up a studio at the legendary Tenth Street Studio Building, where artists such as Winslow Homer (1836-1910), Albert Bierstadt (1830-1902), and Church himself worked and exhibited. In 1858, McEntee had an additional studio built next to his father's home in Rondout, where the artist spent many summers painting the nearby Catskill Mountains. He was elected an associate member of the National Academy in 1860 and became a full member the following year.

McEntee's belief in the capacity of the natural landscape to arouse profound emotions often inspired him to exhibit his paintings accompanied by passages of poetry. This practice reflects the influence of the poet Henry Pickering (1781-1838), who boarded with the McEntee family during the artist's childhood and introduced the young boy to fine art, poetry, and literature.

According to an entry in McEntee's diary dated October 10, 1888, the artist visited the Adirondacks where he painted a sketch of Maurice cottage from a boat on Bisby Lake. *Maurice Cottage, Adirondacks, 1888* depicts the cottage of Charles S. Maurice, an engineer involved in the construction of the cantilever bridge at Niagara and the Poughkeepsie Bridge. Another cottage nearby was owned by Robert F. Wilkinson, the husband of Sanford Gifford's sister Julia. Classmates from Williams College, Maurice and Wilkinson were members of the Adirondack League Club. A further connection between these men was the Century Club of which they were all members. Sanford Gifford proposed McEntee for membership at the club and McEntee proposed Wilkinson.

During his lifetime, McEntee's work was shown at such venues as the National Academy of Design, the Brooklyn Art Association, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the Boston Art Club, the Boston Athenaeum, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Royal Academy in London, and the Paris Exposition of 1867. Today, McEntee's works are in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Museum, the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., and the Cleveland Museum of Art, among others.