



HAWTHORNE

Fine Art

JERVIS MCENTEE (1828-1891)

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.

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.