



HAWTHORNE
Fine Art

**Hawthorne Fine Art announces its fall exhibition,
*Autumn Splendor: Fall Landscapes in American Art***

July, 2017 – Hawthorne Fine Art is pleased to announce that it will exhibit a selection of autumnal works by American artists in its fall exhibition season. Traditionally, fall has represented a period of harvest and bounty in preparation for the coming winter. Artists often reveled in scenes depicting this transitional time – inaugurated by the September Equinox when the Sun crosses the equator from north to south – by depicting the season’s changing leaves, ruddy, rich colors, crisp atmosphere, and tranquil vistas. In grouping these landscapes together for the first time, Hawthorne Fine Art celebrates fall and its central role in American landscapes.

At the center of this exhibition is Winslow Homer’s *Autumn Trees* (1878), which was one of several watercolors, including *Waverly Oaks* and *The Chestnut Tree*, painted by the artist during the autumn of 1878. Frank Anderson’s *Gathering Leaves* (1883) from a few years later represents another meditation on fall’s bustling yet withering vegetation and the winding paths experienced on an autumn walk. In the early 1870s, artists Susie Barstow and Kate Newhall created two jewel-like landscapes portraying the vast spectrum of fall landscapes. While Barstow paints the exhilarating experience of approaching Mount Washington in New Hampshire by a river framed with bare trees in the bright and colorful work *In the White Mountains* (1872), Newhall renders her vista of the Ausable River in the Adirondacks in soft and peaceful pastel colors in her painting *Autumn on the Black Brook* (1876). Several other works featuring the splendor of fall are included in this exhibition by the artists Joseph H. Greenwood (1857-1927), Audrey Shefchik, Clark Greenwood Voorhees (1871-1933), Mary Josephine Walters (1837-1883), and Gustave Wolff (1863-1935).

One way to capture the idea of “Fall” in the American imagination is to look to one of our greatest writers, the New England-native Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862). An American Renaissance man who eschewed “modern” life for one surrounded by nature, Thoreau wrote countless essays,



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poems, and musings inspired the landscape of his home in Concord, Massachusetts. Shortly before his death, in a speech originally delivered in October of 1862 entitled “October, or Autumnal Tints,” Thoreau expounded on his experience of fall and its metaphysical significance:

The falling leaves, all over the forest, are protecting the roots of my plants. Only look at what is to be seen, and you will have garden enough, without deepening the soil in your yard. We have only to elevate our view a little to see the whole forest as a garden. The blossoming of the scarlet oak, – the forest-flower, surpassing all in splendor (at least since the maple)! I do not know but they interest me more than the maples, [...] our chief November flower, abiding the approach of winter with us, imparting warmth to early November prospects.¹

The beauty of fall is something we carry with us throughout the winter – reminding us of the changing seasons and that it will soon be spring. Many of the fall landscape paintings by American artists of the nineteenth century present a type of *memento mori* or a “meditation on mortality” in the Italian tradition, as American pastoral landscapes slowly succumbed to rising industrial interests and the technological mechanization of agriculture in the early twentieth century. As several of the American landscape artists represented in this exhibition were aware, the pioneer artist Thomas Cole, founder of the Hudson River School, had frequently depicted the broken, dried out limbs of fall trees in his paintings to signal this threat to America’s bounty.

Autumn Splendor: Fall Landscapes in American Art will be on view September 12-October 31st at Hawthorne Fine Art and is available to be seen by appointment. For more information, please contact the gallery at info@hawthornefineart.com, or by phone at 212.731.0550

About Hawthorne Fine Art: Hawthorne Fine Art is a fine art gallery based in New York City that specializes in nineteenth and early twentieth century American painting, with an emphasis on art historical research. To learn more about the gallery, view the current inventory, or make an appointment, please visit our website at www.hawthornefineart.com

¹ Thoreau, Henry David. *The Essays of Henry David Thoreau* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 1992), 198.