



HAWTHORNE
Fine Art

Alexander Helwig Wyant (1836-1892)

In the Adirondacks

Oil on canvas

27 x 22 inches

Signed lower left

In 1860, Alexander Wyant left his native Ohio for New York City to visit George Inness, the Tonalist master who had awakened his artistic impulse. Inspired by the enchanting beauty of Inness's paintings, Wyant sought his counsel and, with the aid of Inness's patron, Nicholas Longworth, was able to remain in New York for one year. There, Wyant gleaned the ingredients for his own Tonalist style, which would make him one of the late nineteenth century's most prominent landscape painters. He received additional training in Germany and England, learning the style of the Dusseldorf School, before returning to New York to establish his studio in 1867.

Wyant became increasingly well-known over the course of the late-nineteenth century, prompting a critic in the *Art Journal* to write: "As a painter of the wild and rugged scenery of the northern wilderness of New York, Wyant has but few equals in the Academic ranks." The critic's comments resonate in *In the Adirondacks*, an intimate autumnal landscape that reflects the artist's true talent. Featuring a rocky hillside with trees and brush growing amongst the crags, Wyant anchors the composition with a large tree, whose finely-painted brown leaves and gnarled trunk exhibit the painter's desire to capture detail and to highlight the individual character of each landscape he depicts. The placidity of the river in the foreground and the vast expanse of the distant horizon contribute to the scene's overall sense of serenity and tranquility.

Wyant was a member of the National Academy of Design and the Century Association and exhibited at the Brooklyn Art Association, the Boston Arts Club, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the Art Institute of Chicago. His paintings are now in over seventy-five important museum collections, including the White House, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.