

Henry Farrer (1843-1903)

Born in London, the younger brother of Thomas Charles Farrer, Henry Farrer came to the United States at the age of nineteen and settled in Brooklyn, New York. He soon opened a studio in New York City and established a reputation for his landscapes painted in watercolor. In 1866, he became a founding member of the American Society of Painters in Water Color, and the following year, he exhibited his work for the first time at the National Academy of Design and the Brooklyn Art Association. Farrer's early works demonstrate the close attention to detail and the meticulous brushwork characteristic of American Pre-Raphaelite painting.

During the 1880s, the artist rented a room in the Tenth Street Studio Building, where his style became freer and looser. He became best known for his tranquil landscapes, concentrating on the waterways and countryside surrounding New York City. From his studio, the artist made sketching trips to the Hudson River Valley and to points on the New England Coast as far as Portland, Maine. His coastal scenes with their open compositions and detailed cloud formations have a tranquil luminosity similar to that of fellow Pre-Raphaelite painter William Trost Richards.