



HAWTHORNE
Fine Art

JERVIS MCENTEE (1828-1891)

Winter Landscape

Oil on canvas

10 x 18 inches

Signed lower right

Of all the Hudson River School painters, McEntee was recognized for his delicate disposition, given towards an expression of the poetic elements in nature. His personalized interpretations and fresh, softened brushwork provoked critics to compare him with the French artists of his day. One reviewer commenting on the American submissions to the Exposition Universale in Paris drew this parallel:

The better skilled painters who are grouped here are French in grain. As a rule these men have truer perception of the aims and value of art than their less fortunate brethren. Mr. Whistler is eminent among these. Mr. McEntee is French to the core of his thought.¹

Yet, as is visible in *Winter Landscape*, there are other influences that coalesce in McEntee's style. The lessons of Frederic Church endowed McEntee with the ability to create a full and dramatic landscape composition, accentuated by an expressive color palette. McEntee was a close colleague of Worthington Whittredge and Sanford Gifford and absorbed much of their luminosity into his style as well.

Winter Landscape exhibits McEntee's finest efforts, the preservation of sensitive brushwork and the use of a poetic palette to express the American landscape. McEntee uses feathery strokes and muted tones to convey the rough brambles and bare branches of winter. His brushstrokes reach upward, however, toward the faint hint of yellow in the much smoother and calmer horizon, suggesting a new hope for the coming spring. Simply through the use of stylistic detail, McEntee successfully creates a very human drama from what would otherwise be a barren landscape.

¹ "American Art at the Exposition: An English Critic" *The Daily Evening Bulletin*, Philadelphia, 24 July 1867:2 cited in Sweeney, J. Gray, *McEntee & Company* (New York: Beacon Hill Fine Art, 1997), 3.