

The George Durrie Series

The Parkville Frame Gallery is pleased to offer: **The George Durrie Series**. This series is a collection paintings by the American artist George Henry Durrie. These reproductions can be purchased already framed, or we can order these, and other pictures by Durrie, in a variety of sizes, and frame them to your specifications. We think you will be pleased to display these prints in your home, office, or business.



Autumn in New England, Cider Making (1863)

George Durrie

Carmen Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection

Date painted: 1863

How originally painted: Oil on canvas

Size: 25.9 x 36.1 inches

Where on display: Carmen Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection. On loan at the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid, Spain

The Artist: George Henry Durrie (1820-1863) was born in Hartford, Connecticut. He lived all of his life in New Haven and died there at the age of forty-three. While Durrie never achieved the fame of the most renowned nineteenth century American landscape painters, he appears to have had a fulfilling, productive career. His letters show that he never felt the need to move beyond his community, although he once briefly took a studio in New York, and exhibited there regularly at the National Academy of Design.

The Art: *Autumn in New England, Cider Making* (1863)



Red Schoolhouse (1858)

George Durrie

The White House, Washington, D.C.

Date painted: 1858

How originally painted: Oil on canvas

Size: 26 x 36-1/4 inches

Where on display: The White House, Washington, D.C.

The Artist: Almost all of Durrie's compositions are relatively small in scale, few exceeding 18 by 24 inches. His views are quiet and intimate. He knew and admired the works of Thomas Cole and may have tried to emulate certain aspects of Cole's style, yet he eschewed the Hudson River School's compositional complexity and expansiveness.

The Art: *Red Schoolhouse* Based in New Haven, Connecticut, Durrie traveled throughout the state painting scenes of rural life. He was noted for his winter landscapes which idealize the harsh season and effectively capture the visual effects of snow and ice. The New York lithographic firm Currier and Ives chose a number of his scenes for reproduction and distribution. In this nostalgic work, Durrie depicted a one-room schoolhouse with a blanket of snow on its roof, surrounded by children at play.

Editor's Note: *Red Schoolhouse* was featured on the large, 1974 (White House staff) Christmas card of President and Mrs. Ford (originals are available for purchase on the internet). Very nice when properly mated and framed.



Farmyard in Winter (1858)

George Durrie

The White House, Washington, D.C.

Date painted: 1858

How originally painted: Oil on canvas

Size: 26 x 36.13 inches

Where on display: The White House collection, Washington, D.C.

The Artist: The lithographic firm of Currier and Ivés successfully reproduced ten of Durries' scenes, and these, in turn, became popular calendar illustrations in the twentieth century. As a result, Durries' depictions of mid-nineteenth century rural life are now among the most familiar images in all of American art.

The Art: *Farmyard in Winter* is a relatively large painting with a solid structure to match. The sloping roof of the saltbox house points toward the tops of a pair of great trees. They are the central focus. The barn and the snowcapped cones of hay anchor the composition at the left. Together with the tree and rocks in the right foreground, they fix the limits of the space, enclosing the heart of the farm and leaving only a small protected entrance. "The sense of composure--of an implicit pact between man and nature--that suffuses *Farmyard in Winter* is not a reflection of the reality of 1858, of an industrialized America. Durrie ignored the crowded city and chose instead to depict a soundless, self-contained, and nearly anachronistic corner of American life." Credit Line: The White House Historical Association (White House Collection).

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