

The Landscape Series

The Parkville Frame Gallery is pleased to offer: **The Landscape Series**. This series features a collection of reproductions of landscape paintings created by some of the most well-known and well-respected artists. These images, and many others, can be purchased either already framed, or we can order them in a variety of sizes, and frame them to your specifications.



The Hay Wain (1821)
John Constable
National Gallery, London

Date painted: 1821

Period: Romanticism

How originally painted: Oil on canvas

Size: 4' 3" x 6' 1"

Where on display: National Gallery, London

The Artist: **John Constable** (1776--1837) was an English landscape painter in the Romantic tradition. Born in Suffolk, England, he is known principally for revolutionizing the genre of landscape painting with his pictures of Dedham Vale, the area surrounding his home – now known as "Constable Country". Constable's most famous paintings include *Wivenhoe Park* (1816), *Dedham Vale* (1821), and *The Hay Wain* (1821).

The Art: ***The Hay Wain*** was originally titled *Landscape: Noon*. It is a painting that Constable finished in 1821. It shows the viewer a rural scene on the River Stour which is located between the English counties of Suffolk and Essex. The painting hangs in the National Gallery in London. It is regarded as Constable's most famous image, and one of the greatest and most popular English paintings.



Kindred Spirits (1849)
Asher Brown Durand
Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art

Date painted: 1849

How originally painted: Oil on canvas

Size: 44 x 36 inches

Where on display: Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas

The Artist: **Asher Brown Durand** (1796--1886) was the first truly important native-born American landscape painter. Born in New Jersey, he began his career as a printmaker. His reputation became established when fellow-artist John Trumbull hired him to engrave Trumbull's painting: *Declaration of Independence*. Durand is now acknowledged as our finest engraver of reproductive prints. In the 1830's, Durand turned to painting portraits and to genre paintings. Then, inspired by fellow-artist Thomas Cole, he turned to landscape painting. *Kindred Spirits* is one of Durand's best known paintings.

The Art: ***Kindred Spirits*** was commissioned by the merchant-collector Jonathan Sturgis as a gift to William Cullen Bryant in gratitude for the poet's eulogy to artist Thomas Cole, who died suddenly during early 1848. This painting by Durand shows Cole, who had been Jonathan Sturgis mentor, standing in a gorge in the Catskills in the company of his friend, William Cullen Bryant.



The Oxbow (1836)

Thomas Cole

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, City

Date painted: 1836

How originally painted: Oil on canvas

Size: 51 ½ x 76 inches

Where on display: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, City

The Artist: Thomas Cole (1801--1848) was America's leading landscape painter during the first half of the nineteenth century. He was born in 1801, in Bolton-le-Moor, England. He and his family came to the United States in 1818. Cole's death in 1848, at the age of forty-seven was universally mourned. A comprehensive memorial exhibition of his works was quickly organized in New York. His influence on the course of American landscape painting was profound. His work influenced numerous younger painters as they matured, most notably American landscape painters Jasper F. Cropsey, and Frederic Edwin Church.

The Art: Usually referred to as ***The Oxbow***, this painting shows two very different aspects of the American landscape. On the left of the canvas, dense grey clouds hang over a forest of green trees; to the right, the Connecticut River meanders gently through cultivated fields under a blue sky.

A key painting in Cole's oeuvre, and arguably his best-known work, *The Oxbow* was created at a time when Cole was largely occupied with his *Course of Empire* series. His patron, Luman Reed advised him to take a break from that series, as Cole seemed to be showing signs of depression, and to return to the genre of Romantic landscape painting which he loved foremost.



Winter (1890)

Ivan Shishkin

Russian Museum, Saint Petersburg, Russia

Date painted: 1890

How originally painted: Oil on canvas

Size: 49.4 x 80.3 inches

Where on display: Russian Museum, Saint Petersburg, Russia

The Artist: Ivan Shishkin (1832-1898) was a gold-medal winning graduate and later a professor at the Imperial Academy of Arts in St. Petersburg, Russia. He made a unique contribution to Russian art in the form of landscape painting that celebrated nature in all its pure, unadorned beauty. His technical virtuosity and exceptional naturalism led to his being nicknamed "Czar of the forest" by his contemporaries. His most famous landscape paintings include: *Winter* (1890); *Rye* (1878); *Oak Grove* (1887); *Morning in a Pine Forest* (1889); and *Countess Mordvinova's Forest at Peterhof* (1891).

The Art: Ivan Shishkin's painting, *Winter* dates to the late period in the artist's career as a landscape painter who had long dreamed of depicting a winter forest with frozen trees and snowdrifts. The canvas was finished in 1890. With it the artist shows us a snow-covered forest, sleeping under a white blanket of snow. Massive dark tree trunks stand out clearly against the background of light snow. The branches of the trees bend under the weight of the newly fallen snow. Like so many of Shishkin's paintings, this painting celebrates the greatness of nature.

Editors' Note: See Ivan Shishkin's very popular painting *Morning in a Pine Forest* (1889). You can find a discussion of this painting in our Russia Series.



Among the Sierra Nevada Mountains, California (1868)

Albert Bierstadt

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.

Date painted: 1868

How originally painted: Oil on canvas

Size: 6 x 10 feet

Where on display: Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.

The Artist: **Albert Bierstadt** (1830--1902), best known for his portrayal of dramatic scenes from the American West, was born in Prussia, came to the U.S. as a young child, and returned to Europe in 1853 for four years of study and travel. When he returned to the U. S., he traveled through the untamed West, making sketches on which he later based his paintings. His paintings display glowing lighting, sometimes called “luminism”.

The Art: A new Eden is precisely what Bierstadt found when he went west, as we see in ***Among the Sierra Nevada Mountains, California***. The concept of the New World as a New Eden was fundamental to the self-image of the settlers and citizens of this country. The major achievement of this painting lies in the persuasive poetry that Bierstadt has distilled from the landscape, a sacredness enhanced by the glowing light and the absence of human life.



Dunes (early 1650's)
Jacob van Ruisdael
Philadelphia Museum of Art

Date painted: Early 1650's

How originally painted: Oil on panel

Size: (13 3/16 x 19 3/8 inches)

Where on display: Philadelphia Museum of Art

The Artist: Dutch artist **Jacob Isaacksz van Ruisdael** (1628--1682) was considered to be the pre-eminent landscape painter of the Dutch Golden Age, a period of great wealth and cultural achievement when Dutch painting became very popular. Ruisdael was also an art dealer and picture frame maker. His paintings often included very convincing cloud formations

The Art: *Dunes* This small panel painting is a rare pure dune-landscape. These tall dunes around Haarlem were a sandy and rolling terrain that was unusually varied for Holland. A traveler in a red jacket appears in many of the artist's paintings but forms an unusually central accent here, caught in dramatic light and emphasizing the difficulty of the terrain. As in the drawings in his 1646 sketchbook, Ruisdael here explores the Haarlem-area topography in the same way locals were encouraged to do by various publications and prints.



Summer Afternoon, Normandy

Louis Aston Knight

Rehs Galleries, New York City

How originally painted: Oil on canvas

Size: 35 x 46 inches

Where on display: Rehs Galleries, New York City

The Artist: **Louis Aston Knight** (1873--1948) was the son of the American expatriate painter, Daniel Ridgway Knight. Unlike his father, Aston Knight was raised and educated in Europe. In 1894 Aston Knight debuted at the Paris Salon, starting a highly acclaimed career. He is most famous for his French landscapes. You will not find figures in his work. That was due to an agreement that he made with his father, in order to keep their work from looking too similar. This was however, unnecessary because their work is very different. Ridgway Knight painted tightly, while Aston Knight's work shows a much stronger influence of the Impressionists with whom he was friendly. Aston looked up to Claude Monet and visited him from time to time at his home in Giverny. Aston Knight was a favorite of American presidents in his day. In 1922, President Harding purchased an Aston Knight painting to hang in the White House. President Coolidge held a private exhibition of Knight's work during his presidency.

The Art: ***Summer Afternoon, Normandy*** There are fashions in art, and carefully laid out histories that link artistic movements together. And then there are the other paintings. Pretty things, paintings that people hang on their walls and like to look at without having to think too much. Except perhaps to remember clear rivers touched by softly draping willow branches, on warm summer evenings. Or perhaps spring days scented with flowers, and magical evenings lit by golden sunsets.