

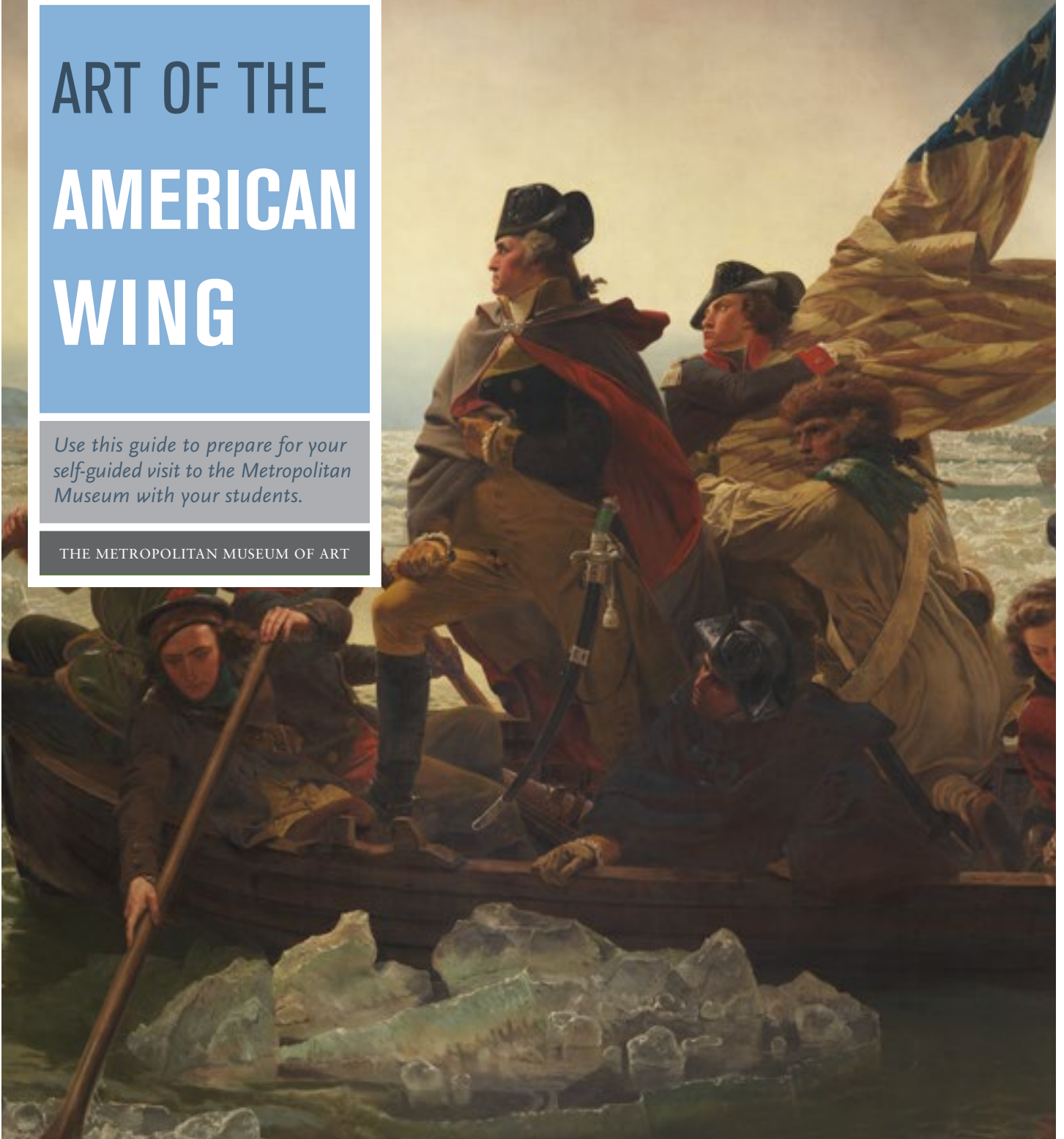
E D U C A T I O N

SCHOOL GROUP
SELF-GUIDE

ART OF THE AMERICAN WING

Use this guide to prepare for your self-guided visit to the Metropolitan Museum with your students.

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART



Introduce students to the range of styles and subjects that characterized American art from the early colonial period through World War I.

Use this guide's collection overview, gallery maps, tour-planning tips, recommendations for engaging students, suggested works of art with links to relevant content on the Museum's website, and list of resources to make the most of your trip to the Museum.

The Collection

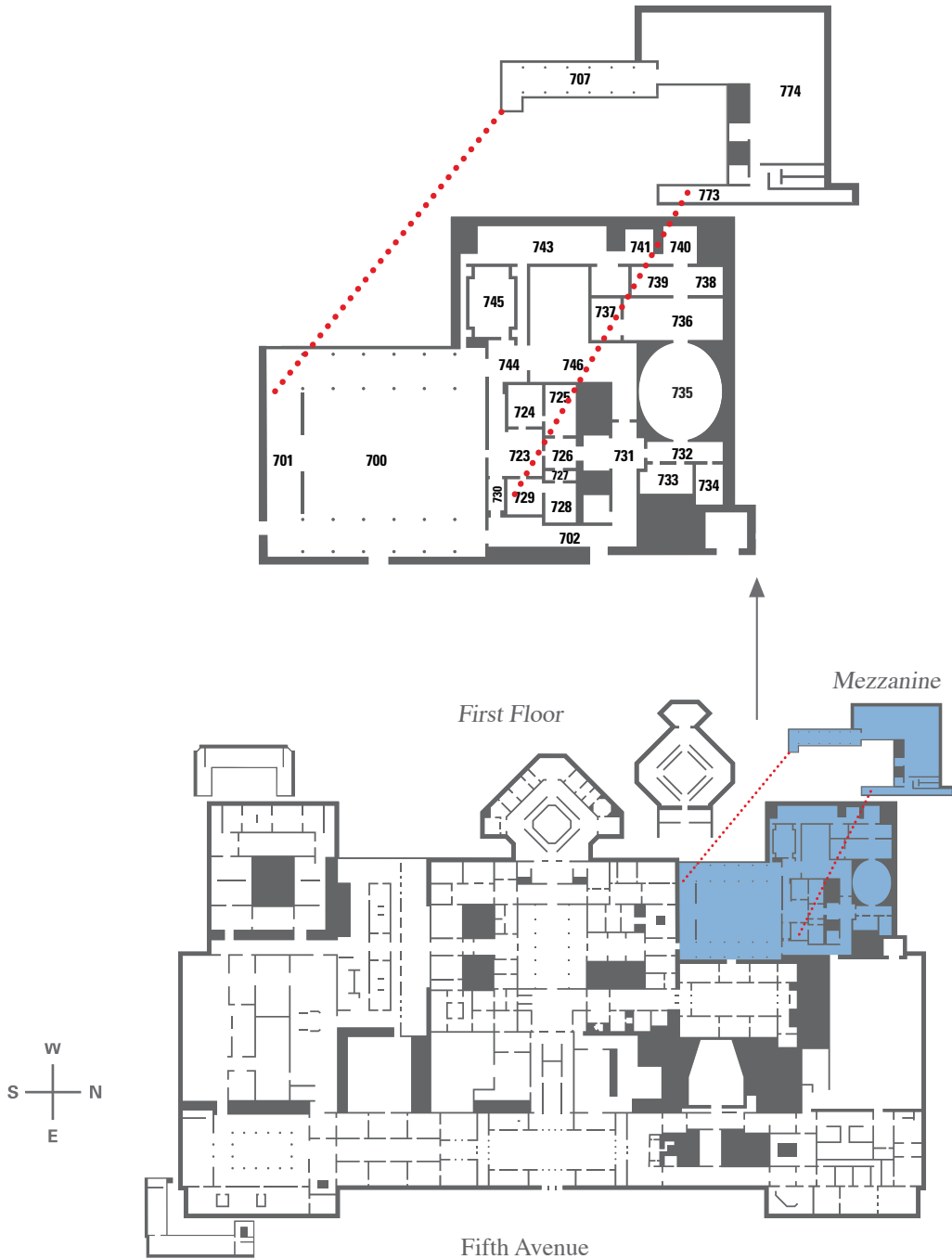
The Met's collection of American art is the most comprehensive in the world, reflecting the evolving interests of the Museum and its audiences since its founding in 1870. [The American Wing](#) houses the Metropolitan's principal display of American art made before 1920, with an emphasis on works created in East Coast colonial settlements and throughout the United States as it expanded across the continent. The collection boasts rich holdings of landscapes by Hudson River School painters, glass works by Louis Comfort Tiffany, and portraits by John Singleton Copley, Gilbert Stuart, Mary Cassatt, and John Singer Sargent. It features historic interiors and furnishings from every century of American history, including rooms and works from seventeenth-century New England, Revolutionary Philadelphia, and Gilded Age New York. The galleries also present vast holdings of paintings and decorative arts from New York City and New York State, bronze sculptures of western subjects by Frederic Remington, Civil War scenes by Winslow Homer, and *Washington Crossing the Delaware* by Emanuel Leutze.

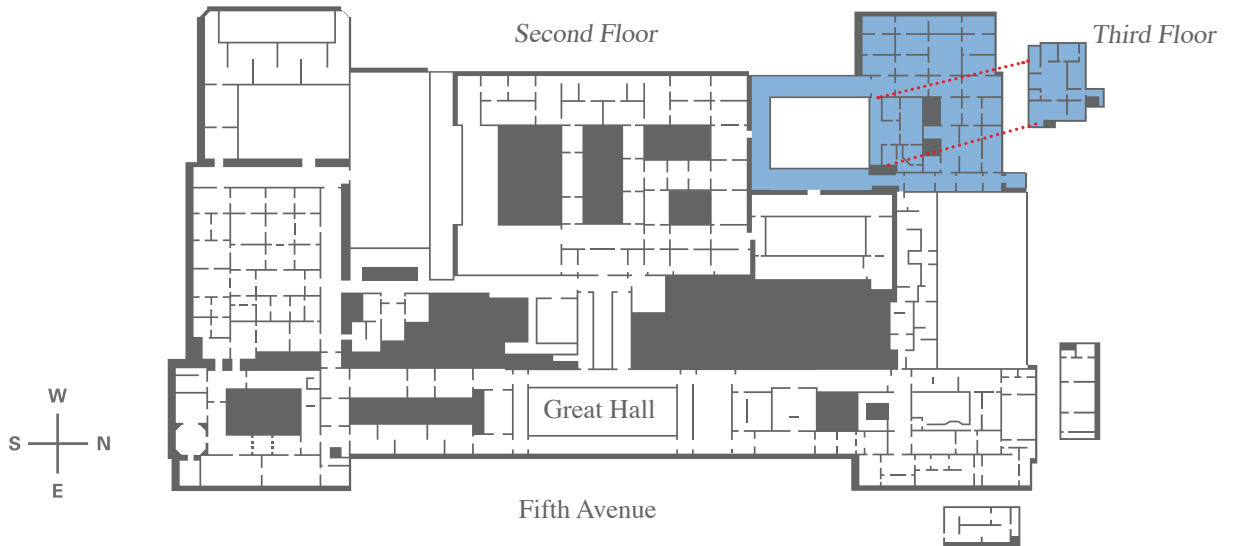
American works of art can also be found in the galleries for Arms and Armor, Drawings and Prints, Musical Instruments, Nineteenth-Century Art, Modern and Contemporary Art, and Photographs. American Indian and Precolumbian works can be found in the galleries for the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas.

The Galleries

Monumental sculpture, stained glass, and architectural elements are installed in the **Charles Engelhard Court**, with silver, gold, glass, and ceramic decorative art objects displayed on the courtyard balconies. The story of American domestic architecture and furnishings from 1680 to 1915 is told through **twenty historic interiors**, or period rooms, beginning with the earliest on the third floor and ending with the work of Frank Lloyd Wright on the first. American **paintings**, from colonial portraits to works by the early twentieth-century Ashcan School, occupy their own suite of galleries on the second floor.

The galleries are laid out mostly chronologically, with some interspersed thematic sections such as Era of the Revolution, Civil War Era, The West, In the Artist's Studio, and Images of Women. The reserve collections are displayed in the Henry R. Luce Center for the Study of American Art on the mezzanine floor.





Planning a Tour

When visiting the Metropolitan Museum with your students, prepare your tour with the following in mind:

- Less is more. Select up to five works of art to discuss over the course of an hour in the galleries.
- Choose works that are located away from doorways and areas that are heavily traversed by visitors.
- Include works that are visible to all students in your group for purposes of discussion and viewing.
- Make sure that there are enough chaperones in your group to divide the students into smaller groups for gallery discussions.
- While touring the galleries, please give priority to lecturers wearing Museum IDs who are guiding groups. If they are discussing a work that you would like your students to see, please select another work to view and discuss in the interim.

Recommendations for Engaging Students with Works of Art in the Galleries

- Allow your students to look closely at an object *before* beginning discussion. Give them time to take it in and organize their thoughts about the work.
- Begin with visual analysis. Ask questions and facilitate open discussion about the fundamentals of the work of art—line, shape, color, texture, form, subject matter, and composition. Challenge your students to articulate and describe what is right in front of their eyes.
- Build on their observations and help them consider an artist’s choices when creating a work of art with a closer examination of composition, size, style, function, and medium.
- Finally, discuss when the work of art was created and how historic events, patronage, literature, science, or technology may have shaped or influenced its production.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s school tour program is made possible by the generosity of Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman.

Suggested Works of Art

Use the links below to access relevant content on the Museum's website, including descriptions of works of art and thematic essays on the *Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History*. These links will also help you locate objects [in the galleries](#) and identify other works on view in the same room.

Most of the suggested works featured in this guide will be on view when you visit the Museum. However, we recommend that you either visit the Museum prior to bringing your school group to plan your tour, or use the [Search the Collections](#) tool to verify that each work of art you plan to visit is on view.

Please note that titles, dates, and other object information on the website and in gallery signage may vary as the result of ongoing research. The images below are details. Use the links to view the full works of art and learn more about each selection.

Works Created during the Colonial Period (1600–1763)



[Room from the Hart House, Ipswich, Massachusetts](#), 1680; wood, oak, pine; 17 1/2 x 20 x 6 2/3 ft.; Munsey Fund, 1936 (36.127)

Learn more about the [Room from the Hart House](#).

Learn more about [American Furniture, 1620–1730: The Seventeenth-Century and William and Mary Styles](#).



[Francis Brinley](#), 1729; John Smibert (American, born Scotland, Edinburgh 1688–1751 Boston, Massachusetts); oil on canvas; 50 x 39 1/4 in. (127 x 99.7 cm); Rogers Fund, 1962 (62.79.1)

Learn more about [Art and Identity in the British North American Colonies, 1700–1776](#).

Learn more about the [Portrait Painting from North America](#).



[Mrs. Francis Brinley and Her Son Francis](#), 1729; John Smibert (American, born Scotland, Edinburgh 1688–1751 Boston, Massachusetts); oil on canvas; 50 x 39 1/4 in. (127 x 99.7 cm); Rogers Fund, 1962 (62.79.2)

Learn more about [Art and Identity in the British North American Colonies, 1700–1776](#).

Works Created during the Revolutionary War Era (1763–89)



[Room from the Powel House, Philadelphia](#), 1765–66, remodeled 1769–71; wood and plaster; 19 x 20 x 12 3/4 ft.; Rogers Fund, 1918 (18.87.1–4)

Learn more about the [Room from the Powel House](#).

Learn more about [American Georgian Interiors \(Mid-Eighteenth-Century Period Rooms\)](#).

Learn more about [American Furniture, 1730–1790: Queen Anne and Chippendale Styles](#).

Learn more about [Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate in Early Colonial America](#).



[Daniel Crommelin Verplanck](#), 1771; John Singleton Copley (American, Boston, Massachusetts 1738–1815 London); oil on canvas; 49 1/2 x 40 in. (125.7 x 101.6 cm); Gift of Bayard Verplanck, 1949 (49.12)

Learn more about [John Singleton Copley \(1738–1815\)](#).



[George Washington](#), ca. 1779–81; Charles Willson Peale (American, Chester, Maryland 1741–1827 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania); oil on canvas; 95 x 61 3/4 in. (241.3 x 156.8 cm); Gift of Collis P. Huntington, 1897 (97.33)

Learn more about [Art and Society of the New Republic, 1776–1800](#).

Learn more about [George Washington: Man, Myth, Monument](#).

Works Created during the Federal Period (1789–1823)



[Elijah Boardman](#), 1789; Ralph Earl (1751–1801); oil on canvas; 83 x 51 in. (210.8 x 129.5 cm); Bequest of Susan W. Tyler, 1979 (1979.395)

Learn more about [this painting](#).



[George Washington](#), begun 1795; Gilbert Stuart (American, North Kingston, Rhode Island 1755–1828 Boston, Massachusetts); oil on canvas; 30 1/4 x 25 1/4 in. (76.8 x 64.1 cm); Rogers Fund, 1907 (07.160)

Learn more about [this painting](#).

Learn more about [George Washington: Man, Myth, Monument](#).



[Panoramic View of the Palace and Gardens of Versailles](#), 1818–19; John Vanderlyn (American, Kingston, New York 1775–1852 Kingston, New York); oil on canvas; 12 x 165 ft. (3.6 x 49.5 m); Gift of the Senate House Association, Kingston, New York, 1952 (52.184)

Learn more about [this panoramic view](#).

Learn more about [From Italy to France: Gardens in the Court of Louis XIV and After](#).

Works Created during the Antebellum Era (1820–50)



[View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm—The Oxbow](#), 1836; Thomas Cole (American, Lancashire 1801–1848 Catskill, New York); oil on canvas; 51 1/2 x 76 in. (130.8 x 193 cm); Gift of Mrs. Russell Sage, 1908 (08.228)

Learn more about [this painting](#).

Learn more about [Thomas Cole \(1801–1848\)](#).

Learn more about [The Hudson River School](#).



[Fur Traders Descending the Missouri](#), 1845; George Caleb Bingham (American, Augusta County, Virginia 1811–1879 Kansas City, Missouri); oil on canvas; 29 x 36 1/2 in. (73.7 x 92.7 cm); Morris K. Jesup Fund, 1933 (33.61)

Learn more about [this painting](#).

Learn more about [American Scenes of Everyday Life, 1840–1910](#).

Learn more about [Industrialization and Conflict in America: 1840–1875](#).

Works Created during the Civil War and Reconstruction (1850–77)



[Washington Crossing the Delaware](#), 1851; Emanuel Leutze (American, Schwäbisch Gmünd 1816–1868 Washington, D.C.); oil on canvas; 149 x 255 in. (378.5 x 647.7 cm); Gift of John Stewart Kennedy, 1897 (97.34)

Learn more about [this painting](#).

Learn more about [George Washington: Man, Myth, Monument](#).



[Rococo Revival Parlor](#), ca. 1852; Astoria, New York

Learn more about [American Revival Styles, 1840–1876](#).

Learn more about [Industrialization and Conflict in America: 1840–1875](#).



[The New Bonnet](#), 1858; Francis William Edmonds (American, Hudson, New York 1806–1863 Bronxville, New York); oil on canvas; 25 x 30 1/8 in. (63.5 x 76.5 cm); Purchase, Erving Wolf Foundation Gift and Gift of Hanson K. Corning, by exchange, 1975 (1975.27.1)

Learn more about [this painting](#).

Learn more about [American Scenes of Everyday Life, 1840–1910](#).



[Heart of the Andes](#), 1859; Frederic Edwin Church (American, Hartford, Connecticut 1826–1900 New York City); oil on canvas; 66 1/8 x 119 1/4 in. (168 x 302.9 cm); Bequest of Margaret E. Dows, 1909 (09.95)

Learn more about [this painting](#).

Learn more about [The Hudson River School](#).

Learn more about [Frederic Edwin Church \(1826–1900\)](#).



[Prisoners from the Front](#), 1866; Winslow Homer (American, Boston, Massachusetts 1836–1910 Prouts Neck, Maine); oil on canvas; 24 x 38 in. (61 x 96.5 cm); Gift of Mrs. Frank B. Porter, 1922 (22.207)

Learn more about [this painting](#).

Learn more about [Winslow Homer \(1836–1910\)](#).



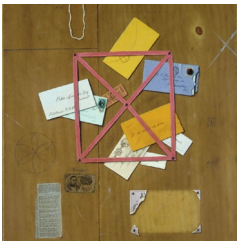
[Dressing for the Carnival](#), 1877; Winslow Homer (American, Boston, Massachusetts 1836–1910 Prouts Neck, Maine); oil on canvas; 20 x 30 in. (50.8 x 76.2 cm); Amelia B. Lazarus Fund, 1922 (22.220)

Learn more about [this painting](#).

Learn more about [Winslow Homer \(1836–1910\)](#).

Learn more about [American Scenes of Everyday Life, 1840–1910](#).

Works Created during the Gilded Age (1877–1900)



[The Artist's Letter Rack](#), 1879; William Michael Harnett (1848–1892); oil on canvas; 30 x 25 in. (76.2 x 63.5 cm); Morris K. Jesup Fund, 1966 (66.13)

Learn more about [America Comes of Age: 1876–1900](#).



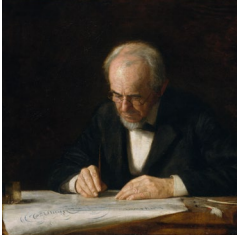
[Lydia Crocheting in the Garden at Marly](#), 1880; Mary Cassatt (American, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 1844–1926 Le Mesnil-Théribus, Oise); oil on canvas; 25 13/16 x 36 7/16 in. (65.6 x 92.6 cm); Gift of Mrs. Gardner Cassatt, 1965 (65.184)

Learn more about [this painting](#).

Learn more about [Mary Stevenson Cassatt \(1844–1926\)](#).

Learn more about [Women Artists in Nineteenth-Century France](#).

Learn more about [Americans in Paris, 1860–1900](#).



[The Writing Master](#), 1882; Thomas Eakins (American, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1844–1916 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania); oil on canvas; 30 x 34 1/4 in. (76.2 x 87 cm); John Stewart Kennedy Fund, 1917 (17.173)

Learn more about [this painting](#).

Learn more about [Thomas Eakins \(1844–1916\): Painting](#).

Learn more about [Americans in Paris, 1860–1900](#).



[The Last Moments of John Brown](#), 1882–84; Thomas Hovenden (1840–1895); oil on canvas; 77 3/8 x 66 1/4 in. (196.5 x 168.3 cm); Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Stoeckel, 1897 (97.5)



[Celia Thaxter's Garden, Isles of Shoals, Maine](#), 1890; Childe Hassam (American, Dorchester, Massachusetts 1859–1935 East Hampton, New York); oil on canvas; 17 3/4 x 21 1/2 in. (45.1 x 54.6 cm); Anonymous Gift, 1994 (1994.567)

Learn more about [this painting](#).

Learn more about [Childe Hassam \(1859–1935\)](#).

Learn more about [Americans in Paris, 1860–1900](#).

Learn more about [American Impressionism](#).



[The Magnolia Vase](#), ca. 1893; manufactured by Tiffany & Co. (1837–present); designed by John T. Curran (1859–1933); silver, gold, enamel, opals; overall: 30 7/8 x 19 1/2 in. (78.4 x 49.5 cm); 838 oz. 11 dwt. (26081.6 g); foot: diam. 13 1/2 in. (34.3 cm); Gift of Mrs. Winthrop Atwill, 1899 (99.2)

Learn more about [this vase](#).

Learn more about [Nineteenth-Century American Silver](#).

Learn more about [America Comes of Age: 1876–1900](#).



Mr. and Mrs. I. N. Phelps Stokes, 1897; John Singer Sargent (American, Florence 1856–1925 London); oil on canvas; 84 1/4 x 39 3/4 in. (214 x 101 cm); Bequest of Edith Minturn Phelps Stokes (Mrs. I. N.), 1938 (38.104)

Learn more about [this painting](#).

Learn more about [John Singer Sargent \(1856–1925\)](#).

Learn more about [America Comes of Age: 1876–1900](#).

Works Created during the Progressive Era (1900–1920)



Central Park, Winter, ca. 1905; William Glackens (American, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1870–1938 Westport, Connecticut); oil on canvas; 25 x 30 in. (63.5 x 76.2 cm); George A. Hearn Fund, 1921 (21.164)

Learn more about [this painting](#).

Learn more about [American Scenes of Everyday Life, 1840–1910](#).

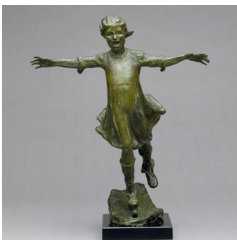
Learn more about [The Ashcan School](#).



Architectural Elements from Laurelton Hall, Oyster Bay, New York, ca. 1905; designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany (American, New York City 1848–1933 New York City); limestone, ceramic, and Favrite glass; 21 x 23 ft. (640.1 x 701 cm); Gift of Jeannette Genius McKean and Hugh Ferguson McKean, in memory of Charles Hosmer Morse, 1978 (1978.10.1)

Learn more about [these architectural elements](#).

Learn more about [Louis Comfort Tiffany \(1848–1933\)](#).



Girl Skating, 1906; Mary Abastenia St. Leger Eberle (American, 1878–1942); bronze; 13 x 11 1/4 x 6 1/4 in. (33 x 28.6 x 15.9 cm); Rogers Fund, 1909 (09.57)

Learn more about [this sculpture](#).

Learn more about [American Women Sculptors](#).

Learn more about [American Bronze Casting](#).



The Broncho Buster, 1895, revised 1909, cast by November 1910; Frederic Remington (American, Canton, New York 1861–1909 Ridgefield, Connecticut); bronze; 32 1/4 x 27 1/4 x 15 in. (81.9 x 69.2 x 38.1 cm); Bequest of Jacob Ruppert, 1939 (39.65.45)

Learn more about [this sculpture](#).

Learn more about [Frederic Remington \(1861–1909\)](#).

Learn more about [Bronze Statuettes of the American West \(1850–1915\)](#).

Learn more about [American Bronze Casting](#).



Mourning Victory from the Melvin Memorial, 1906–8, carving 1912–15; Daniel Chester French (American, Exeter, New Hampshire 1850–1931 Stockbridge, Massachusetts); marble; 120 1/2 x 57 1/4 x 28 3/4 in. (306.1 x 145.4 x 73 cm); Gift of James C. Melvin, 1912 (15.75)

Learn more about [this sculpture](#).

Learn more about [Daniel Chester French \(1850–1931\)](#).

Learn more about [From Model to Monument: American Public Sculpture, 1865–1915](#).



Living room from the Little House, Wayzata, Minnesota, 1912–14;

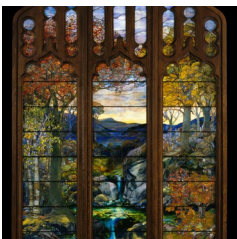
Frank Lloyd Wright (American, Richland Center, Wisconsin 1867–1959 Phoenix, Arizona); H. 13 ft. 8 in. (4.17 m), L. 46 ft. (14 m), W. 28 ft. (8.53 m)

Learn more about [this room](#).

Learn more about [Frank Lloyd Wright \(1867–1959\)](#).

Learn more about [The Arts and Crafts Movement in America](#).

Works Created during the “Roaring” Twenties (1920–29)



Autumn Landscape, 1923–24; designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany (American, New York City 1848–1933 New York City); made by Tiffany Studios (1902–32); leaded Favrite glass; 132 x 102 in. (335.3 x 259.1 cm); Gift of Robert W. de Forest, 1925 (25.173a–o)

Learn more about [Louis Comfort Tiffany \(1848–1933\)](#).

[Lesson Plan: Urban Life and the Natural World](#).

Metropolitan Museum of Art Resources

Search this [selected bibliography](#) of Metropolitan Museum resources about American art.