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Thomas Cole National Historic Site Announces Major Gift of Painting by Thomas Doughty, an Early American Landscape Painter and a Significant Influence on Cole



David and Laura Grey with "Approaching Storm (Land Storm)" at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, 2019

Catskill, NY – February 18, 2026 – The Thomas Cole National Historic Site, announced today the gift of a major 19th-century landscape painting to the Thomas Cole Site. The painting – *Approaching Storm (Land Storm)* by Thomas Doughty – is a gift from Laura Grey, a prominent art collector and philanthropist. Mrs. Grey and her late husband David Grey previously donated an important painting by Thomas Cole titled *Tower by Moonlight* to the Thomas Cole Site.

Thomas Doughty (1793-1856) was the first American artist to identify himself as a landscape painter. In focusing on nature as a worthy subject for art, he influenced Thomas Cole, Cole's work, and his career. It is, therefore, especially poignant to have this work by an artist Cole greatly admired now on permanent display in Thomas Cole's historic home and studios in Catskill.

The painting is oil on canvas, measures 23 x 31 inches, and is signed and dated "T. Doughty 1822." It was most recently exhibited at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in the exhibition *From the Schuylkill to the Hudson: Landscapes of the Early American Republic* (June - December 2019). The Greys, who had purchased the painting at the Philadelphia Art Show in 2010, loaned it for the 2019 exhibition.

It was also at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, where Thomas Cole encountered Doughty's work at an exhibition in 1824. This was a significant moment in

Thomas Cole's development as an artist, prior to his 1825 trip to the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains – a trip that, as Dr. Elizabeth Kornhauser, former curator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, asserts, launched a new paradigm for American art.

Kevin Avery, senior research scholar at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, will give a talk on this painting by Thomas Doughty on Sunday, April 19, at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site. More information on the talk is available at thomascole.org/events.



Thomas Doughty (1793-1856), *Approaching Storm (Land Storm)*, 1822 oil on canvas, 23 x 31 in.
Thomas Cole National Historic Site, Gift of the David and Laura Grey Collection, in memory of David Grey, TC.2025.3

David Grey wrote about this painting in a 2015 article for the Thomas Cole Site, noting: “It includes the very same compositional features as exist in one of the few documented works by Cole before 1825, *Moonlit Landscape with Two Figures* (1824), which include a prostrate tree across the foreground, a dramatic mound of earth in the middle ground from which trees reach out in different directions, with slightly oversized figures in the foreground.”

“We are thrilled to have *Approaching Storm (Land Storm)* in the permanent collection of the Thomas Cole Site,” said Maura O’Shea, Executive Director of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site. “The number one interest we hear from our visitors is to see original paintings, and this gift directly meets their need. It’s exciting to see this important painting – by an artist who influenced Thomas Cole directly – now hanging in his own home. We are enormously grateful to Laura and David Grey for acquiring this fascinating work and to Laura for enabling it to grace and add immeasurably to our permanent collection and visitor experience.”

“When my husband and I first saw this painting, we both fell in love with it immediately,” said Laura Grey. “My husband David was the art researcher, I was the art observer, and we both recognized this painting as an example of Doughty’s prime ability. That’s what we always looked for, as we assembled our collection of landscape paintings, especially the Hudson River School. We never bought paintings based on size, always on quality. Similarly, we fell in love with Thomas Cole’s home at the Thomas Cole Site, and I’m very pleased that this painting is now on permanent display there. A painting should be alive and should make you feel that it is speaking to you. I hope that this painting will now do that for every visitor to the Thomas Cole Site.”

Thomas Cole National Historic Site

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site showcases the life and work of Thomas Cole (1801-1848), whose American landscape painting defines an enduring visual identity for the nation. Inspired by the natural beauty that surrounds the site, Cole founded the influential Hudson River School art movement. The site's six-acre campus in Catskill, NY, includes Cole's home and two studio buildings; the Cole Center, a new visitor center designed by Architectural Digest 100 Stephen Shadley; gardens and grounds with panoramic views of the Catskill Mountains; and a scenic walkway over the Hudson River connecting the site with Olana, the historic home of artist and Cole student Frederic Church. The Thomas Cole Site hosts exhibitions as well as art-making activities and innovative school and public programs. Visitors experience first-hand the themes that Cole explored, from the power of art to landscape preservation to the restorative properties of nature. The Thomas Cole Site is a National Historic Landmark and an affiliated area of the National Park System, and it operates as an independent 501c3 nonprofit organization.

Visitor Information

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site is open year round, and hours vary by season. For details see: thomascole.org/visit. The grounds are open every day for free from dawn to dusk. Keep in touch on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube at [@thomascolesite](https://www.instagram.com/thomascolesite).