

GILMOR + COLE

[Small table in NE corner]



THOMAS COLE, *Landscape Scene from "The Last of the Mohicans,"* 1827, oil on canvas, Fenimore Art Museum, Cooperstown, New York, Gift of Stephen C. Clark, N0194.1961, photograph by Richard Walker

Gilmor commissioned Cole to paint a scene from the novel *The Last of the Mohicans*.

Gilmor to Cole, December 13, 1827

In your composition, the arrangement of rocks is artificial...It strikes the eye as something forced, & not ordinarily seen in nature.

Cole to Gilmor, December 25, 1826

Cole, December, 1829, Journal

The pictures of all the great painters are something more than mere imitations of nature as they found it. He who has no power of creation is no real painter. [Journal]

Gilmor to Cole, December 13, 1826

Above all things, however, truth in drawing the scenes of our own country is essential.

Cole, Thoughts and Occurrences, May 19, 1838

Cole to Gilmor, December 25, 1826

I am not a mere leaf-painter. [Journal]

If the imagination is shackled, and nothing is described but what we see, seldom will anything truly great be produced in either Painting or Poetry.

Cole's vision of America combines the real and the ideal.

Can imaginary views tell the truth?