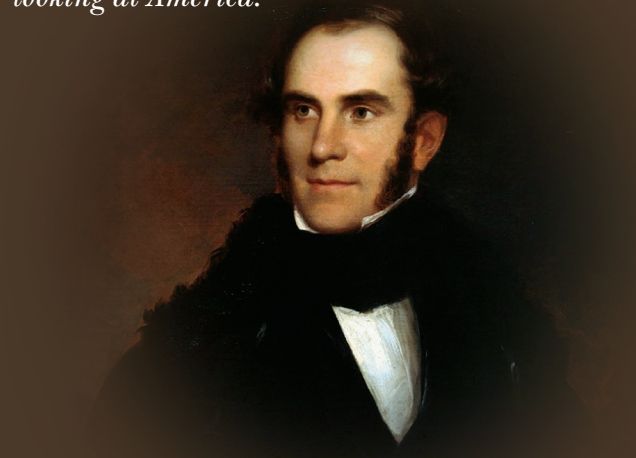


THOMAS COLE'S STORY

Learn how one man inspired a new way of looking at America.



Asher B. Durand, *Portrait of Thomas Cole (detail)*, 1838, Berkshire Museum

Thomas Cole was the most influential American artist of the nineteenth century and founder of this country's first major art movement, now known as the Hudson River School. He urged his fellow Americans to value and preserve the wild and natural beauty of the landscapes he depicted in his paintings. In his *Essay on American Scenery*, Cole wrote:

I cannot but express my sorrow that the beauty of such landscapes is quickly passing away.



Thomas Cole, *View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm - The Oxbow*, 1836, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

HOURS & ADMISSION

Tickets can be purchased seasonally for a Guided Tour or an Explore-at-Your-Own-Pace visit. We recommend reserving tickets in advance at thomascole.org/visit. The grounds are open for free year-round from dawn until dusk.

WHERE WE ARE

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site is located in the village of Catskill, New York, at the foot of the Catskill Mountains in the Hudson Valley. The historic site is just off the Rip Van Winkle Bridge and is a ten-minute car ride from the Hudson Amtrak station.



Rip Van Winkle Bridge and cover photo by Zio & Sons

The Thomas Cole Site is part of the **HUDSON RIVER SKYWALK**, a scenic walkway at the place where American landscape painting began. The new walkway connects the Thomas Cole Site with the historic home of Cole's student, Frederic Church's Olana, over the Hudson River and across the Rip Van Winkle Bridge. For more information visit hudsonriverskywalk.org.

THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

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THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



*We are still in Eden...
Shall we turn from it?*

THOMAS COLE



THE ARTIST'S HOME



MAIN HOUSE, PHOTO BY ESCAPE BROOKLYN

*So much of happiness
in that little spot*

In 1836, Thomas Cole wrote, “I often look at our house and think how wonderful that so much of happiness should be comprised in that little spot.” Cole designed the interior of the 1815 Main House, and today the restored Parlors feature the artist’s original decorative painted borders, and immersive digital storytelling installations. Watch as paintings seem to come to life on the walls around you and Cole’s private letters magically appear on desktops.



WEST PARLOR, PHOTO BY ZIO & SONS

THE GALLERY

The reconstructed New Studio building features a museum gallery with changing special exhibitions of Hudson River School masterpieces. Originally built in 1846, the New Studio was designed by Thomas Cole. In a letter to a friend he wrote:

*Do you know I
am something of
an Architect?*



NEW STUDIO, PHOTO BY ZIO & SONS



OLD STUDIO, PHOTO © PETER AARON/OTTO

THE OLD STUDIO



OLD STUDIO, PHOTO © PETER AARON/OTTO

Explore Cole’s 1839 Old Studio where he painted many of his greatest works. He wrote, “being removed from the noise & bustle of the house is really charming.”

Hudson Valley light streams through the northern windows onto Cole’s brushes, pigments, and original easels.

*Removed from the
noise and bustle*

THE VIEWS

Step into a landscape painting with the Hudson River School Art Trail. Take a road trip to see the places in nature that Thomas Cole and his fellow Hudson River School artists painted throughout the Hudson Valley. Plan your adventure at hudsonriverschool.org.



SUNSET ROCK, PHOTO BY ANDREW VON URTZ