Diversity of Place: Natural and Urban Landscapes

June 24, 2009 Presentation by Wendy Greenhouse

**Art Terms**
- foreground, middle ground, background, distance
- framing elements
- horizon line
- landscape
- sublime
- picturesque
- topographical landscape
- art for art’s sake
- abstract
- composition

**Influences and Historical Reference Points:**
- English and Dutch landscape tradition
- Romanticism
- nationalism
- Manifest Destiny
- Civil War
- Erie Canal (opened 1825)
- National Academy of Design (founded 1826)
- Hudson River School
- Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859)

**CLOSE READ**

Thomas Cole, *View from Mt. Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm--The Oxbow*, 1826 (51 ½ x 76 in.), Metropolitan Museum of Art, 08.228 (Picturing America)
CHRONOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

William Groombridge, **View of a Manor House on the Harlem River, New York**, 1793, oil on canvas (39 3/4 x 49 in.), Terra Foundation for American Art, 1992.37

Robert Havell after John James Audubon, **Bald Eagle** in *The Birds of America* ("elephant" folio), vol. 1, 1827-28, hand-colored aquatint and etching (print) (sheet: 33 3/16 x 25 ½ in.), Terra Foundation for American Art, 1984.3.1 (transparency provided)

Thomas Cole, **Landscape with Figures: A Scene from "The Last of the Mohicans"**, 1826
Oil on panel (26 1/8 x 43 1/16 in.)
Terra Foundation for American Art, 1993.2 (transparency provided)

Frederic Edwin Church, **View of Cotopaxi**, 1857, oil on canvas (24 ½ x 36 ½ in.), Art Institute of Chicago, 1919.753
(AIC American Art Teachers Manual)
Albert Bierstadt, *Looking Down Yosemite Valley*, 1865, oil on canvas (64 1/2 x 96 1/2 in.), Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, Ala., 1991.879 (Picturing America)

Sanford Gifford, *Hunter Mountain, Twilight*, oil on canvas (30 5/8 x 54 1/8 in.), Terra Foundation for American Art, 1999.57 (transparency provided)

Alfred Thompson Bricher, *Lake George from Bolton’s Landing*, 1867, oil on canvas (27 x 50 1/4 in.), Terra Foundation for American Art, 1992.17

Fitz Henry Lane, *Brace’s Rock, Brace’s Cove*, oil on canvas (10 1/4 x 15 1/4 in.), Terra Foundation for American Art, 1999.83 (transparency provided)

James McNeill Whistler, *Nocturne, Blue and Gold—Southampton Water*, 1872, oil on canvas (50 ½ x 76 in.), Art Institute of Chicago, 1900.52 (AIC American Art Teachers Manual)
George Inness, *The Home of the Heron*, 1893, oil on canvas (30 x 45 in.), Art Institute of Chicago, 1911.31 (AIC American Art Teachers Manual)

LESSON PLAN

Thomas Cole, *Distant View of Niagara Falls*, 1830, oil on panel (18 7/8 x 23 7/8 in.), The Art Institute of Chicago, 1946.396 (AIC American Art Teachers Manual)

Reference Materials:
- Terra Foundation for American Art website page, Thomas Cole Biography ([www.terraamericanart.org/collection](http://www.terraamericanart.org/collection) [search on Thomas Cole])
- Metropolitan Museum of Art website, Timeline of Art History, essay on Hudson River School ([http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/hurs/hd_hurs.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/hurs/hd_hurs.htm))