

Colby



Colby Quarterly

Volume 24
Issue 1 *March*

Article 9

March 1988

Announcements and Comments

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Recommended Citation

Colby Library Quarterly, Volume 24, no.1, March 1988

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Announcements and Comments

THE MUSEUM is lending *Prospect Park, Brooklyn* by William Merritt Chase (1849–1916), illustrated on the cover, to the exhibition, *New Horizons: American Painting, 1840–1910*, which will be shown at three Russian museums: State Tretyakov Museum, Moscow; State Russian Museum, Leningrad; Minsk State Museum of Belorussiya Russia, Minsk. The exhibition opened in Moscow on November 16 and will close in Minsk on May 13, 1988. It was organized and is traveling under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). A companion exhibition, *Russia, the Land, the People: Russian Painting, 1850–1910*, comprised of paintings from Russian museums, has already been seen in this country. It opened at the Renwick Gallery, Washington, D.C., in October 1986 and traveled to the David and Alfred Smart Gallery of the University of Chicago and the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University. The exhibitions mark the first exchange between the two countries of works by Russian and American artists since the Geneva cultural exchange agreement was signed in November 1985 by President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev. The essay for the catalogue for *New Horizons* was written by John I. H. Baur, director emeritus of the Whitney Museum of American Art and for many years a member of the Advisory Council for the Colby College Museum of Art. The Museum is one of forty-five lenders to the exhibition, which includes sixty-five paintings. *Prospect Park, Brooklyn* was given to the Museum by Miss Adeline F. and Miss Caroline R. Wing.

Chase, born in Indiana, moved to New York early in his career. He studied and traveled extensively in Europe during the 1870's and 1880's. In 1887 he lived in Brooklyn for a few months. It was during this period that he painted in Prospect Park, considered by many to be the masterpiece of the landscape architects, Frederick Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux. The composition of the painting and the Impressionist style in which it is painted are similar to those being used by French artists at the same time in their views of Parisian parks.

The Concourse, the broad walk in the painting, appears in another painting of the park by Chase that is in the collection of the Art Institute of Chicago. A third painting by him that features the Concourse was auctioned at Sotheby's, New York, in December 1985.

The Museum also has a portrait of an unidentified man by Chase which is illustrated on the back cover. It was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Adler.

HUGH J. GOURLEY III
Director

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