

Inventing The American Landscape

Art & Nature in the Hudson Valley

A talk delivered to a meeting of:

The Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council

Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc.

Greenway Heritage Conservancy, Inc.

Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

by

James Lancel McElhinney

at

Henry A. Wallace Center, FDR Presidential Library and Museum, Hyde Park, N.Y.

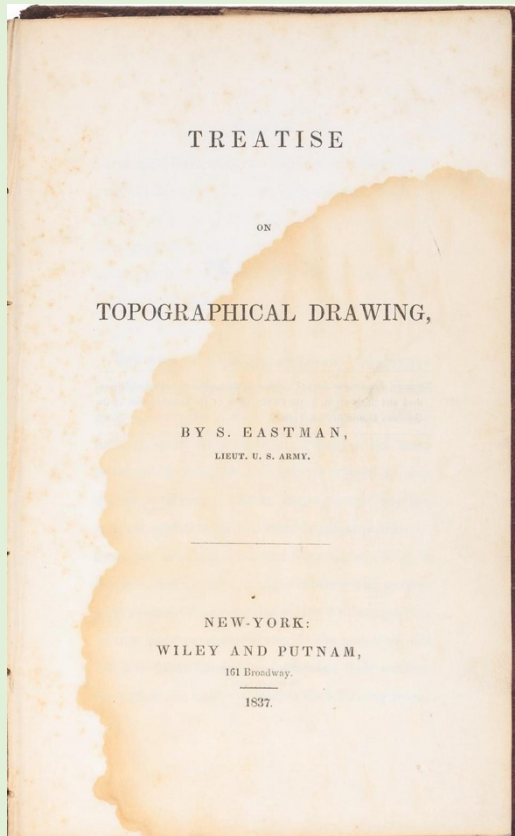
Wednesday, June 12, 2019. 10:00 A.M.

(Please note: all images in this presentation are reproduced under fair use for critical and educational purposes)

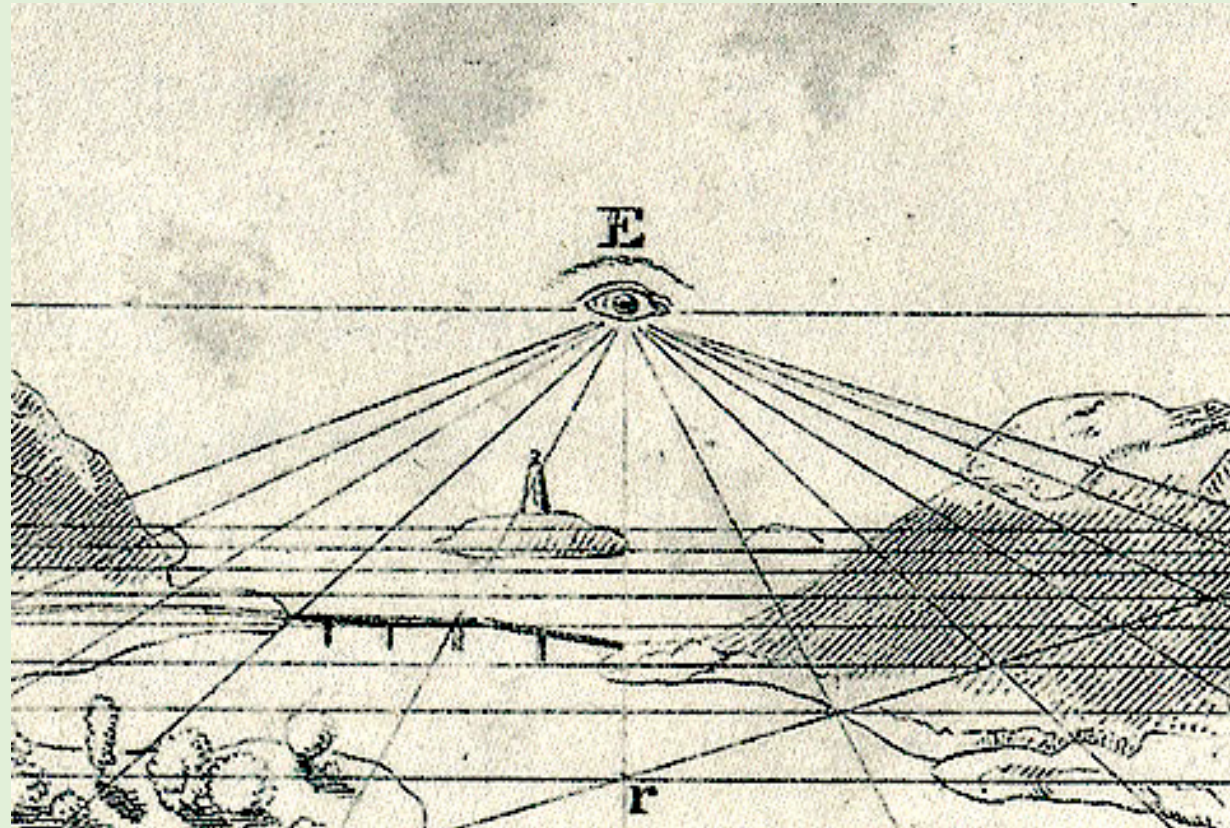
The North Gate from Knox Battery, West Point. 1875
Collection U.S. Senate



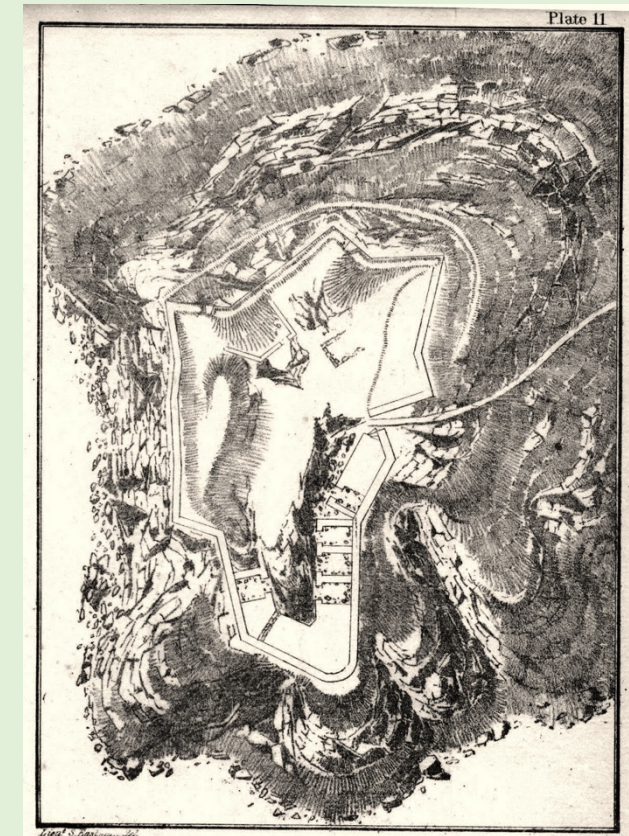
Seth Eastman: *A Treatise on Topographical Drawing*. 1837
Textbook, USMA West Point



Title Page.



Optical Projection.



Map of Fort Putnam

Early Views of the Hudson: Thomas Davies, Royal Engineers
The Attack on Fort Washington. November 16, 1776



View Across the Schuylkill from Edgefield to Belmont

American Sketchbook, Captain Joshua Rowley Watson, Royal Navy. 1816

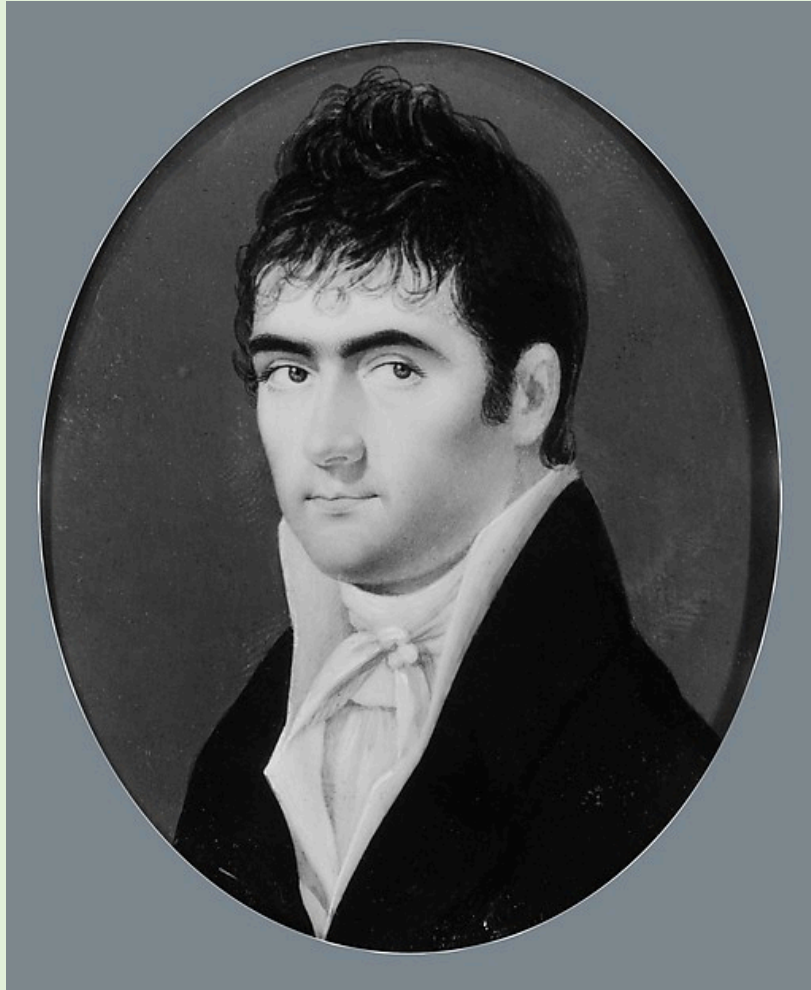
Travel drawings & paintings based on the concept of *coup de l'oeil militaire*



Thomas Gimbrede

(1781-1833)

USMA Drawing Master 1819-1832



Sylvanus Thayer

(1785-1872)

USMA Superintendent 1817-1833

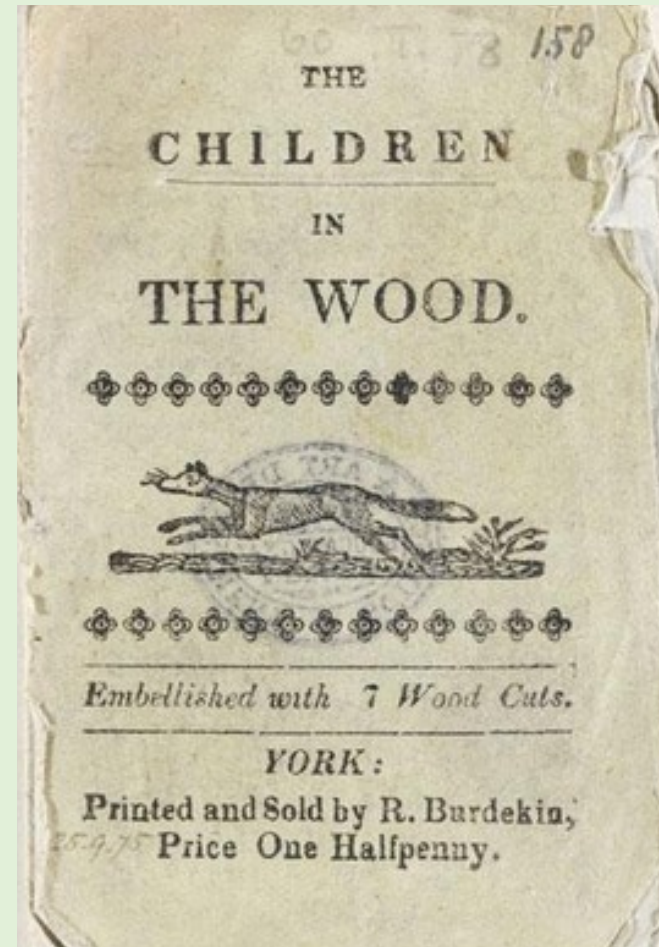


Limits of Literacy

Penmanship: Once the secret written language of educated elites.
Printed matter, chapbooks and broadsides for the common folk

It gave me great pleasure to find
you approv'd of the dress I have put
my Men into. - Caprice and Whim
had no share in it - on the contrary,
'tis evident I think, that Soldiers in
such a dress, are better fitted for the
active Service we are engag'd in;

13th July 1758
G. Washington

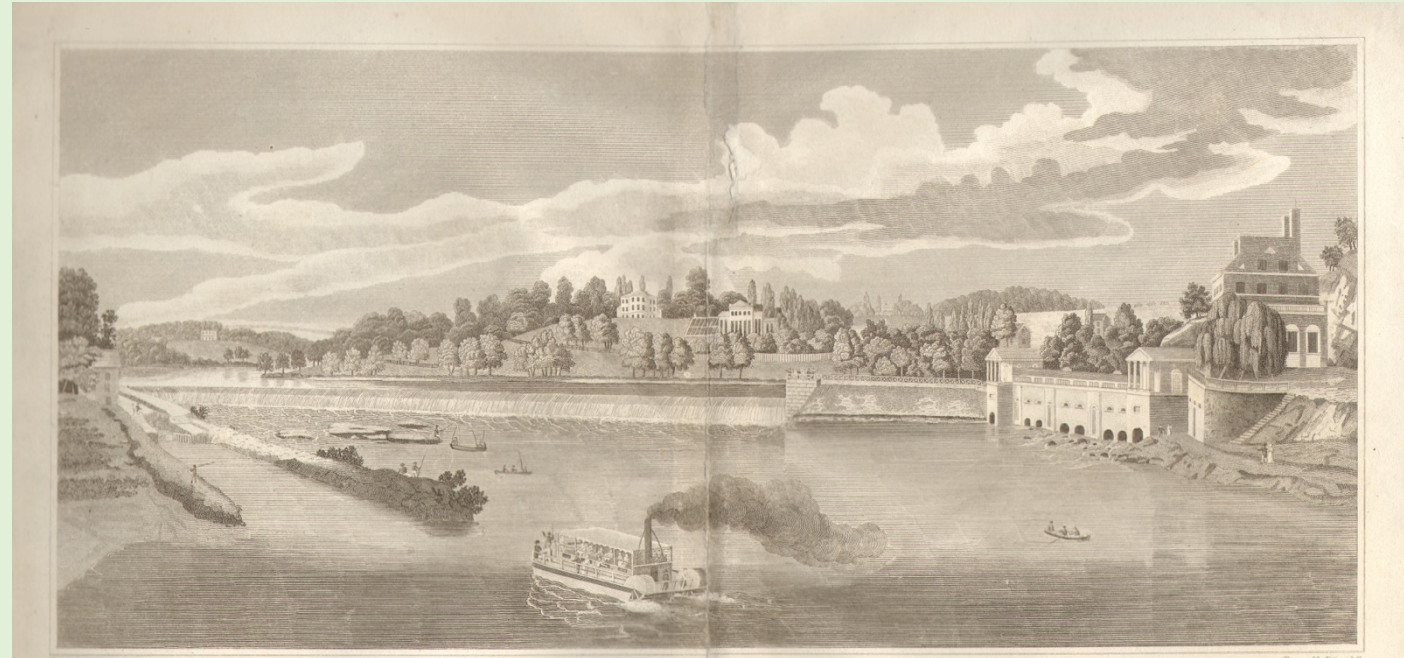


Rivers: Birthplace of American Landscape Art Prints by William and Thomas Birch, Philadelphia



Mendenhall Ferry, Schuylkill, Pennsylvania.

Drawn Engraved & Published by W. Birch, Springland near Bristol, Pennsylv.



VIEW OF THE DAM AND WATER WORKS AT FAIR MOUNT, PHILADELPHIA.

Published by John D. Parke 1824.

Early Views of the Hudson Highlands

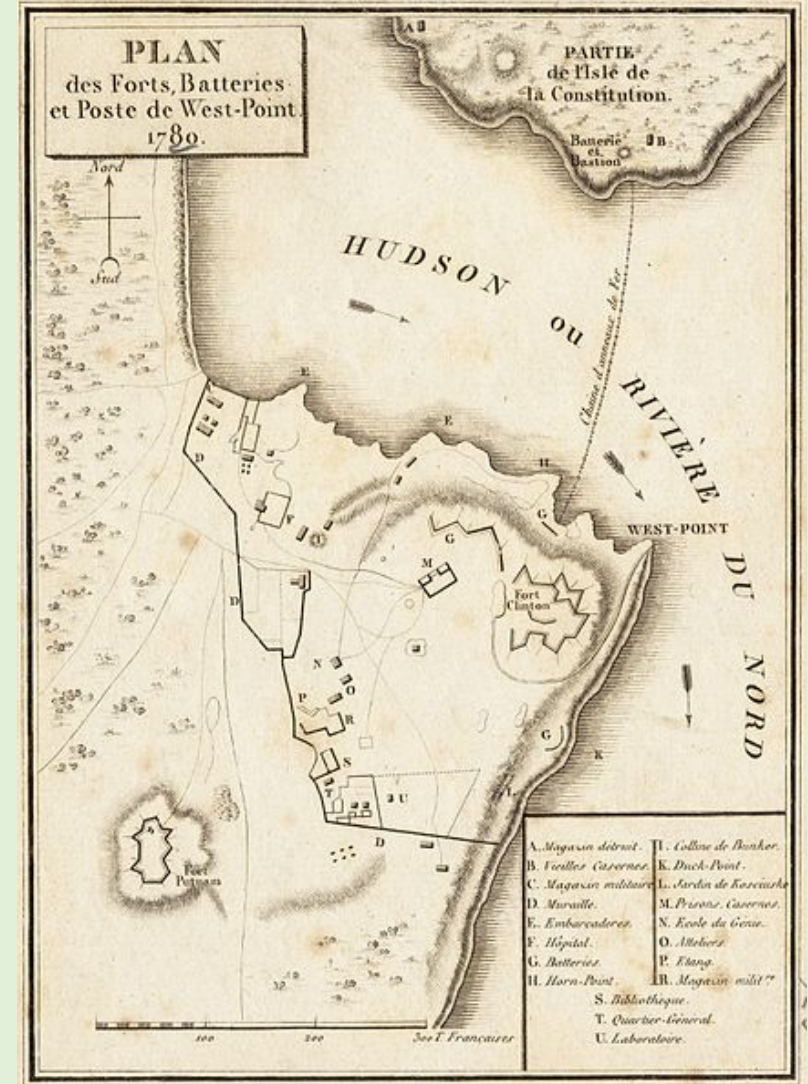
Charles Willson Peale.



Thomas Doughty



Thomas Cole. View of Fort Putnam 1826



William Guy Wall: *Hudson River Portfolio*, 1821-1825



William Guy Wall: *Hudson River Portfolio* 1821-25
Canonical picturesque scenery



William Guy Wall: *Hudson River Portfolio*. 1821-1825
Hydropower: harnessed (left) and untamed (right)

Glenns Falls



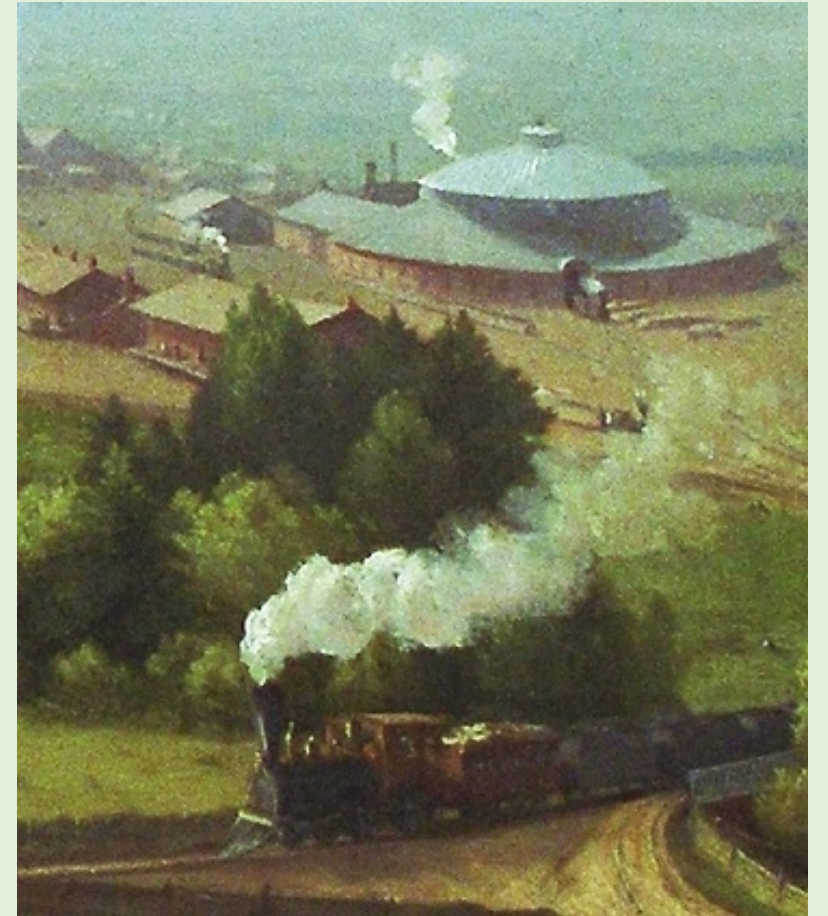
Hadley Falls



Plein-Air Painting in the White Mountains: Winslow Homer
Like the Hudson Valley, part of the *American Grand Tour*



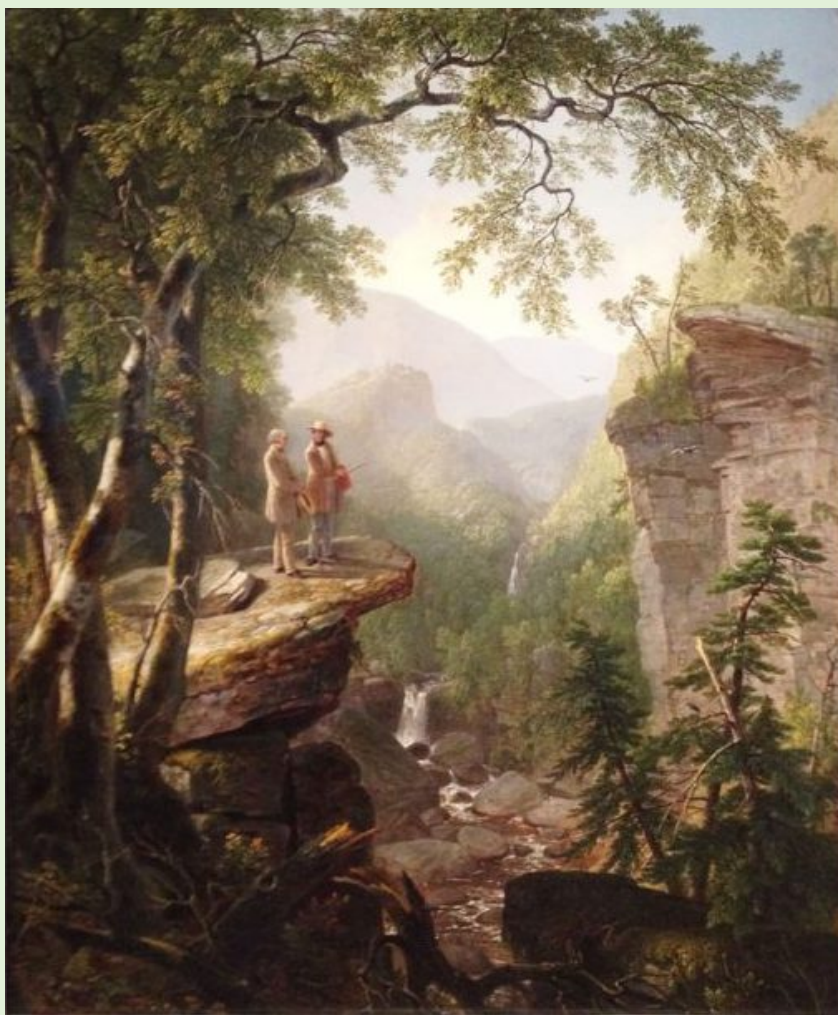
Art and the Environment George Inness. *Lackawanna Valley*. 1855
(The landscape consumed by industrial transportation)



Kindred Spirits. Asher B. Durand. 1849

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. Bentonville Arkansas

William Cullen Bryant (left) Thomas Cole (right)



Frederic Church. Niagara Falls. 1857

(19th-century equivalent to the I-Max experience, presented as a ticketed spectacle)



Selling the idea of national parks to the U.S. Congress

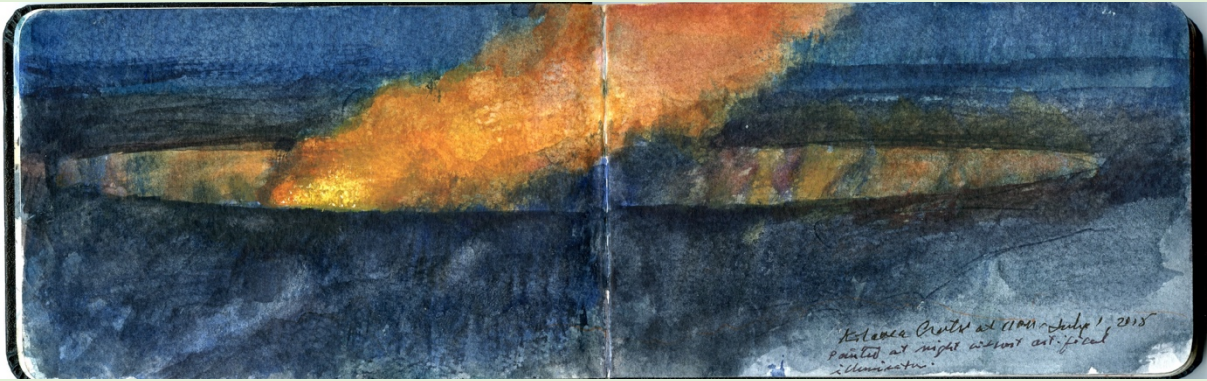
Albert Bierstadt
Yosemite.



Thomas Moran
Yellowstone



Art-Making as a Mode of Personal Engagement:
JLM in the Field: The Summit of Kilauea, July 1-2, 2015



Annual Adirondack Plein-Air Festival, Saranac Lake &
JLM at work by a river



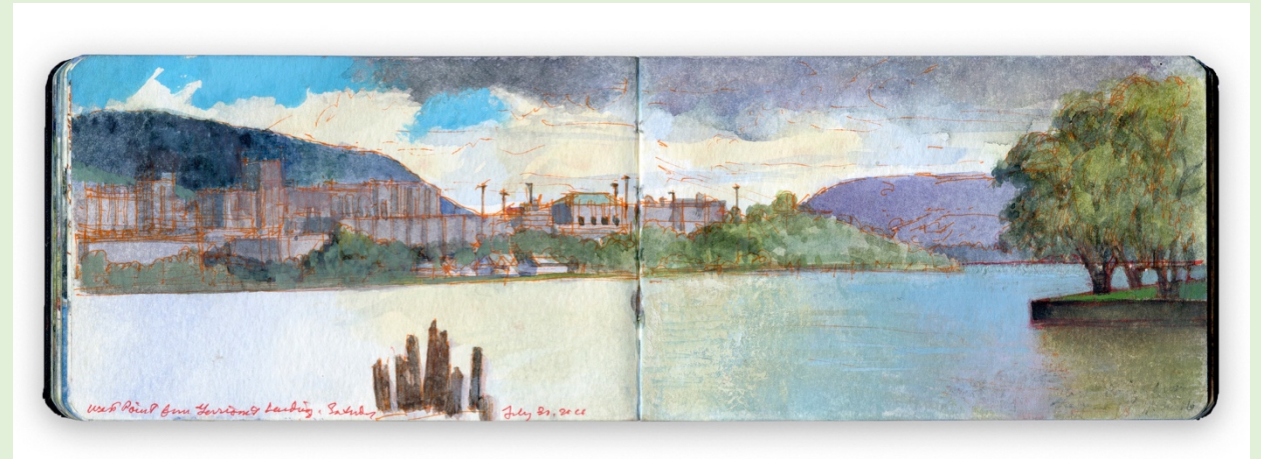
*Looking South from Boscobel. James Lancel McElhinney
Hudson Highlands. North River Suite Volume One.
Needlewatcher Editions. 2017*



Roswell - looking South July 16. 2011

Crotchetville Island
Sketch made on Island July 16 while waiting
for boat at Mullis, Single Buses & Fido
after lunch @ the Grand Restaurant Port

James Lancel McElhinney
Hudson Highlands: Volume One, North River Suite. 2017
Needlewatcher Editions. New York



Thank You

www.mcelhinneyart.com