

Hudson River School

Hudson River school was a large group of American landscape painters of several generations who worked between about 1825 and 1870. An outgrowth of the Romantic Movement, the Hudson River school was the first native school of painting in the United States; it was strongly nationalistic both in its proud celebration of the natural beauty of the American landscape and in the desire of its artists to become independent of European schools of painting.

The early leaders of the Hudson River school were Thomas Doughty, Asher Durand, and Thomas Cole, all of whom worked in the open and painted reverential, carefully observed pictures of untouched wilderness in the Hudson River valley and nearby locations in New England.

- Paintings reflect three major themes of America in the 19th century:
 - Discovery
 - Exploration
 - Settlement
- The paintings also depict the American landscape as a pastoral setting, where human beings and nature coexist peacefully.
- Hudson River School landscapes are characterized by realistic, detailed, and sometimes idealized portrayal of nature along with the juxtaposition (putting two opposite things next to each other) of colonialism and wilderness.
- In general, Hudson River School artists believed that the nature in the form of the American landscape was the manifestation of God on Earth.
- Elements of Hudson River School Paintings:
 - Technology (telegraphs, railroads, and water mills)
 - Open and Empty Spaces
 - Heroic Figures
 - Light Breaking Through
 - Submissive Natives
 - Jobs/Money Sources
 - Safe Wildlife
- How do the Hudson River School paintings express the idea of Manifest Destiny?

Hudson River School paintings were a response to Manifest Destiny. The paintings reflected the belief that Americans had the God-given right to settle and expand from coast to coast.

