Asher B Durand

Dates: 1796-1886

Residency: Maplewood, New Jersey.

Bio: Asher Brown Durand was born in Maplewood, New Jersey in 1796. He began his career as an engraver, making plates in a New York shop run by Peter Maverick. The talented young man outshined his master and started his own engraving business with his brother. After establishing himself as New York’s leading engraver in the 1820’s, Durand and fellow New York artist Thomas Cole played a significant role in the establishment of The New York School of Design, and later the Hudson River School. By the 1830’s Durand began to paint landscapes, portraits, and some religious scenes. The portraits include such important American figures as James Madison and John Quincy Adams. By the late 1830’s, Durand began to paint his famous landscapes from the Catskills to the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Like Cole, Durand’s dedication to landscape was rooted in his religious view of nature. His landscapes are known for their rich greens and saturating gold light. He died in 1886 at the age of ninety.

Major Achievements: Cofounder of the Hudson River School of Painters and New York School of Design.
Progress (The Advance of Civilization), Smithsonian American Art Museum
