

## **Thomas Cole**

**Dates:** 1801 -1848

**Residency:** Philadelphia; Catskill, New York; New York City

**Bio:** Cole was born in Lancashire, England in 1801. He and his family moved to Steubenville, Philadelphia in 1818, where he lived and worked in the arts until 1823. In that year, Cole moved to Pittsburgh and began to study landscapes by current artists Thomas Doughty and Thomas Birch. Although he had no formal training, Cole drew inspiration from poetry, literature, and emerging transcendental philosophy. In 1825 Cole moved to New York and spent the summer hiking and sketching the Hudson River Valley. His works were discovered and revered by New York art critics by 1829. He became one of the founding members of the New York Academy of Design and was recognized as a leading American landscape artist. Cole's works were considerably bettered by his trips to Europe. He recorded his important philosophy in essays and poems inspired by the Hudson Valley scenery. The artist died unexpectedly in 1848.

**Major Achievements:** Founder of the Hudson River School of Painters, major contributor to American Romantic Landscape.



*The Return*, 1837, Oil on canvas, 39 3/4 x 63 in (101 x 160 cm)

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington



*Shroon Mountain*, 23423, 1838, the Cleveland

Museum of Art

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[http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.isu.edu/~wattron/cole\\_distraction.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.isu.edu/~wattron/OLCole2c.html&usq=\\_\\_9EUq3ixVurQwmtU2h6L6I2qpQ=&h=702&w=1143&sz=167&hl=en&start=3&um=1&tbnid=to8ox\\_th2G68RM:&tbnh=92&tbnw=150&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dthomas%2Bcole%26um%3D1%26hl%3Den%26client%3Dfirefox-a%26rls%3Dorg.mozilla:en-US:official%26sa%3DN](http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.isu.edu/~wattron/cole_distraction.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.isu.edu/~wattron/OLCole2c.html&usq=__9EUq3ixVurQwmtU2h6L6I2qpQ=&h=702&w=1143&sz=167&hl=en&start=3&um=1&tbnid=to8ox_th2G68RM:&tbnh=92&tbnw=150&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dthomas%2Bcole%26um%3D1%26hl%3Den%26client%3Dfirefox-a%26rls%3Dorg.mozilla:en-US:official%26sa%3DN)