

The Oxbow

Thomas Cole

Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm (1836)

Materials: Oil on Canvas

Form: Light on the right of the painting suggests pastoral civilization.



Content: Statement about Manifest Destiny and Westward expansion. Cole embraces expansion. He believes in taming the unknown.

Content: The Oxbow is located on the Connecticut River in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Form: Cole uses a "diagonal line" to separate wild and tame. Bright colors on the right side are used to contrast the dark left side, which has little human contact.



Context: Cole has a lasting impact on landscape painters in the US.

Form: Cole uses Romantic style.

Function: Cole suggests the benefits of Westward Expansion and emphasizes the people's Manifest Destiny.

Content: Cole painted himself at the bottom of the painting.

Context: Cole associated nature with God.

Context: The Oxbow is part of the Hudson River school, which is a group of art pieces with a common theme. The Hudson River school collects pieces with nature themes and paintings that follow Like Realism.

"Khan Academy." *Khan Academy*. N.p., n.d. Web. 11 Mar. 2016.

"View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm-The Oxbow | 08.228 | Work of Art | Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History | The Metropolitan Museum of Art." *The Met's Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History*. N.p., n.d. Web. 11 Mar. 2016.

"The Oxbow." *The Oxbow*. N.p., n.d. Web. 11 Mar. 2016.