

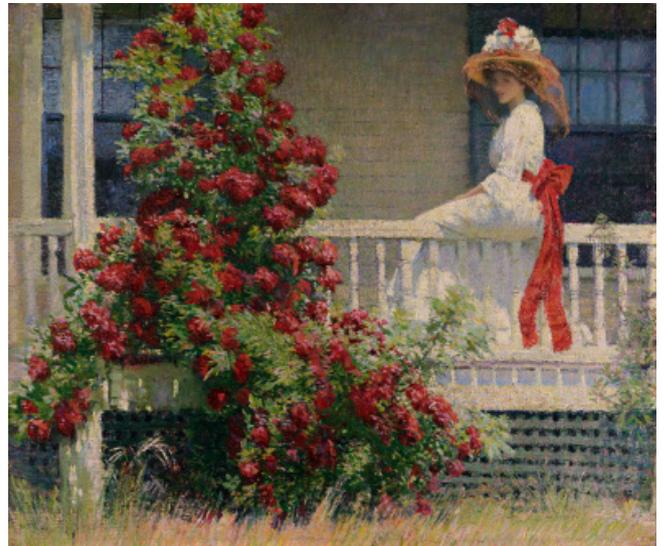
THE ARTIST'S GARDEN

AMERICAN IMPRESSIONISM

A note from Writer & Director Phil Grabsky

In our Paul Durand-Ruel film 'The Impressionists – and the Man who Made Them' we looked at how important the Paris-based dealer was in the story of impressionism. There is a particular moment that is crucially important: 1886. It was then that Durand-Ruel accepted an invitation to bring over 300 paintings to an exhibition in New York. This proved to be a milestone in American art. In response, American artists flocked to the French village of Giverny – home to master impressionist Claude Monet. American artists cheered the French new wave: painting outdoors with a brilliant palette. Europe recoiled against the work of Monet, Degas, Manet, etc.. Americans embraced it – and created their own style of impressionism. This was a story that, frankly, I didn't know. We are so used to hearing about the "French" impressionists that we barely mention other European impressionists, never mind Americans, Australians and others. What fascinated me immediately about the American angle was how it could offer an insight into not only American art history but American history in general.

Art naturally reflects its time. So I knew this would be more than a film about transferring a particular artistic style to a different continent. This would be a film about how this movement was taken up and incorporated into a period of American history that was transforming the nation. So I and my team looked into what exhibitions were coming up and that's where we had the great fortune to discover a major and already successful exhibition entitled 'The Artist's Garden – American Impressionism and the Garden Movement'. It had begun in Philadelphia at the wonderful Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and then moved on – reaching a conclusion at the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme. That's where we filmed it. We were extremely fortunate to secure the opportunity to work with both the Florence Griswold and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts – and to have available the curator of the original show (and editor of the catalogue) Anna O. Marley and the curator, Amy Kurtz Lansing, and assistant curator, Jennifer Stettler Parsons, of the latter exhibition. I hope you enjoy watching the film as much as we did making it.



Crimson Rambler, Philip Leslie Hale, 1909



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KEY ARTISTS FEATURED

John Leslie Breck
Mary Cassatt
Edgar Degas
Maria Oakey Dewing
Lillian Westcott Hale
Philip Leslie Hale
Childe Hassam
Edouard Manet
William Merritt
Willard Metcalf
Claude Monet
Pierre Auguste Renoir
Theodore Robinson
John Singer Sargent
John Henry Twatchman
J. Alden Weir

The Florence Griswold Museum
www.florencegriswoldmuseum.org



The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art
www.pafa.org



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Little Girl in a Blue Armchair, 1878, Mary Cassatt, National Gallery of Art, Washington



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