



Dying Buffalo Bull in Snow Drift, plate 17 from the "North American Indian Portfolio"

Date

1845

Primary Maker

George Catlin

Medium

Color lithograph on paper

Description

In this view the reader is introduced to the ultimum of dreariness and severity which the hunters of the northern prairies have to

contend with in the depths of winter. An intensely cold day, with dry and sand-like snow three or four feet in depth, drifting before the wind, and a herd of buffaloes laboring to plough their way through it, whilst they are urged on by a party of Indians on snow-shoes, deeply clad in furs, and dealing death to them with their spears. The dying bull in the foreground of this picture, and that in the preceding plate, were carefully sketched by my own hand whilst the animals were thus struggling with death; and I therefore confidently offer them as faithful delineations of their forms and looks, as well as fit and impressive subjects for contemplation for those who may ever have the time, and feel disposed to sympathize with the cruel destruction and extinction of this useful and noble animal.

Dimensions

Composition: 14 in. × 18 7/16 in. (35.5 × 46.8 cm) Sheet: 15 5/8 × 22 3/16 in. (39.7 × 56.3 cm)