Basic Detail Report

The White Mountains from Randolph Hill

Date
1866-67

Primary Maker
Homer Dodge Martin

Medium
Oil on canvas

Description
Although Homer Dodge Martin often based his paintings on sketches done from nature, he, like many artists, typically painted his canvases long after creating the original drawings. For example, the Albany-born Martin probably made the sketches on which The White Mountains from Randolph Hill is based in the summer of 1862 or 1863, when he spent time in the area around Gorham, New Hampshire, but he painted the canvas in his Manhattan studio in the winter of 1866–67, a season bookended by summers in the Adirondacks rather than the White Mountains. Randolph Hill is situated slightly north of Mount Washington, the snow-covered peak seen at the center of the painting. Martin made this work early in his career, when he was particularly indebted to the Hudson River School painters Thomas Cole and John Frederick Kensett. The landscapes of the Hudson River School celebrated America's majesty in highly detailed panoramas of prelapsarian wilderness, often devoid of people or history. Although initially beholden to these artists, Martin, like many others in the generation that lived through the Civil War and into the Reconstruction period, began to imbue his landscapes with a darker, more expressive tone and with a literal haze. He went on to become one of the best-known practitioners of Tonalism (as the new movement was coined) in the 1880s and 1890s. J. Martin Carovano was Hamilton's sixteenth president, serving from 1974 to 1988. Under his leadership, the Fred L. Emerson Gallery was founded in the renovated Christian A. Johnson Hall (formerly Ellen Curtiss James Library). The Hamilton College Board of Trustees gave this painting to Carovano in 1988 in thanks for his years of service to the college. Carovano, in turn, donated it to the Emerson in its final year, 2011. (SOURCE: Alcauskas, INNOVATIVE APPROACHES, HONORED TRADITIONS, 2017)

Dimensions
Frame: 22 5/8 × 33 × 2 7/8 in. (57.5 × 83.8 × 7.3 cm) Overall: 16 × 26 in. (40.6 × 66 cm)