Picturing America

AMERICA’S HISTORY THROUGH OUR NATION’S ART

National Endowment for the Humanities
Picturing America tells the story of America through its art. Our nation is united by our devotion to shared ideals. Great American art can help us ensure these ideals are studied, passed on, and remembered.

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) developed Picturing America as a tool to help teach American history and provide students with a gateway to the entire universe of the humanities. It features works by artists ranging from early American Indian artists to painters Mary Cassatt and Thomas Hart Benton; from photographers Walker Evans and Dorothea Lange to architects Frank Lloyd Wright and William Van Alen.

In partnership with the American Library Association, the NEH is distributing large, high-quality reproductions of these works, free of charge, to schools and libraries nationwide, along with materials and lesson plans for use by educators. These materials unlock the potential of the works of art, enhancing the study of American history, social studies, language arts, literature, and civics. This booklet presents all of the Picturing America images with numbers corresponding to the reproductions in the collection. To view the images with detailed information on the artist, inspiration, and historic or thematic significance, please visit PicturingAmerica.neh.gov.

Picturing America helps us understand our democracy by reintroducing us to our common heritage and ideals. It brings us face to face with the people, places, and events that have shaped our country, and provides an innovative way to experience America’s history through our nation’s art.

Bruce Cole, Chairman
National Endowment for the Humanities
Pottery and Baskets, c. 1100 - c. 1960
Various artists

Mission Nuestra Señora de la Concepción, San Antonio, Texas, 1755
Various artists
2–B Silver of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries
Various artists

2–A Paul Revere, 1768
John Singleton Copley

3–A The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere, 1931
Grant Wood

3–B George Washington (the Lansdowne portrait), 1796
Gilbert Stuart
4-A
Washington Crossing the Delaware, 1851
Emanuel Leutze

4-B
Benjamin Franklin, 1862
Hiram Powers

5-A
View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm — The Oxbow, 1836
Thomas Cole

5-B
Last of the Mohicans, cover illustration, 1919
N. C. Wyeth
American Flamingo, 1838
John James Audubon; Robert Havell

Catlin Painting the Portrait of Mah-to-toh-pa — Mandan, 1861/1869
George Catlin

State Capitol, Columbus, Ohio, 1838-1861
Thomas Cole and others

The County Election, 1852
George Caleb Bingham
Looking Down Yosemite Valley, California, 1865
Albert Bierstadt

The Veteran in a New Field, 1865
Winslow Homer

“Sans Arc Lakota” Ledger Book, 1880-1881
Black Hawk

Abraham Lincoln, Pres., U.S., 1809-1865, 1865
Alexander Gardner
Robert Gould Shaw and the Fifty-Fourth Regiment Memorial, 1884-1897
Augustus Saint-Gaudens

John Biglin in a Single Scull, c. 1873
Thomas Eakins

Harmony in Blue and Gold: The Peacock Room, 1876-1877
James McNeill Whistler

Quilts of the 19th and 20th centuries
Various artists
Portrait of a Boy, 1890
John Singer Sargent

Brooklyn Bridge, New York, 1929
Walker Evans

Allies Day, May 1917, 1917
Childe Hassam

Autumn Landscape, 1923-1924
Louis Comfort Tiffany
The Boating Party, 1893/1894
Mary Cassatt

American Landscape, 1930
Charles Sheeler

Brooklyn Bridge, c. 1919-1920
Joseph Stella

The Chrysler Building, 1926-1930
William Van Alen
House by the Railroad, 1925
Edward Hopper

Fallingwater, 1935-1939
Frank Lloyd Wright

The Migration of the Negro
Panel no. 57, 1940-1941
Jacob Lawrence

The Dove, 1964
Romare Bearden
Migrant Mother and Children, 1936
Dorothea Lange

Freedom of Speech, The Saturday Evening Post
1943, 1943
Norman Rockwell

Selma-to-Montgomery March for Voting Rights in 1965, 1965
James Karales

The Sources of Country Music, 1975
Thomas Hart Benton
20–A

Cityscape I, 1963
Richard Diebenkorn

20–B

Ladder for Booker T. Washington, 1996
Martin Puryear
1-A. Pottery and Baskets, c. 1100 to c. 1960, Various artists


1-A.2 Siykátki polychrome bowl, c. 1350-1700, height 3 1/3 in., diameter 10 3/4 in. (27.4 x 9.3 cm.). Catalog no. 155479, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Photograph by D. E. Hurlbert.


1-A.5 Carl Toolak (c. 1885–c. 1945), Inupiat, Point Barrow, Alaska, Baleen basket, c. 1940. Baleen (whalebone) and ivory, height 3 1/2 in., diameter 3 1/3 in. (9.0 x 8.5 cm.). Courtesy of the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, Seattle, Wash., Catalog number 1.2E1180.


1-B Mission Nuestra Señora de la Concepción, San Antonio, Texas, 1755, Various artists


2-A John Singleton Copley, Paul Revere, 1768


2-B Silver of the 18th, 19th, and 20th Centuries

2-B.1 Paul Revere, Jr. (American: 1734-1816) Teapot, 1796. Silver; Overall 6 1/4 x 11 5/8 in., 668.7 grams (15.4 x 29.5 cm, 21.499 troy ounces); Base 5 11/16 x 3 3/4 in. (14.4 x 9.5 cm): The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Bequest of Alphonso T. Clearwater, 1933 (33.120.543) Image © 1986 The Metropolitan Museum of Art.


3-A Grant Wood, The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere, 1931


3-B Gilbert Stuart, George Washington (the Lansdowne portrait), 1796

Gilbert Stuart (1755-1828), George Washington (the Lansdowne portrait), 1796. Oil on canvas, 97 1/2 x 62 1/2 in. (247.6 x 158.7 cm.). National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; acquired as a gift to the nation through the generosity of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation. © 2008 Smithsonian Institution, Courtesy, National Portrait Gallery.

4-A Emanuel Leutze, Washington Crossing the Delaware, 1851

Emanuel Leutze (American: 1816-1868), Washington Crossing the Delaware, 1851, Oil on canvas; 149 x 255 in. (378.5 x 647.7 cm): The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of John Stewart Kennedy, 1897 (97.34) Photograph © 1992 The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

4-B Hiram Powers, Benjamin Franklin, 1862

Hiram Powers (1805-1873), Benjamin Franklin, 1862. Marble, height 97 1/2 in., width 34 7/8 in., depth 21 5/8 in. (247.7 x 88.6 x 54.9 cm.). U.S. Senate Collection.

5-A Thomas Cole, View from the Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm — The Oxbow, 1836

Thomas Cole (American, born England, 1801-1848), View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm — The Oxbow, 1836, Oil on canvas; 51 1/2 x 76 in. (130.8 x 193 cm): The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of Mrs. Russell Sage, 1908 (08.228) Image © 1995 The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

5-B N. C. Wyeth, Last of the Mohicans, cover illustration, 1919


6-A John James Audubon, American Flamingo, 1838

6-B George Catlin, Catlin Painting the Portrait of Mah-to-toh-pa — Mandan, 1861/1869

George Catlin (American, 1796–1872), Catlin Painting the Portrait of Mah-to-toh-pa — Mandan, 1861/1869. Oil on canvas, 38 x 52 in. (96.5 x 132.1 cm.). Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, Mo., Gift of Bank of America.

7-A Thomas Cole and others, State Capitol, Columbus, Ohio, 1838-1861

Ithiel Town and A. J. Davis, architects; design largely by Thomas Cole, Ohio State Capitol, Columbus, Ohio, 1838-1861. Photograph © 2006 Board of Trustees, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

7-B George Caleb Bingham, The County Election, 1852

George Caleb Bingham (1811-1879), The County Election, 1852. Oil on canvas, 38 1/2 x 56 1/4 in. (97.9 x 143.3 cm.). The Henry Ford, Dearborn, Mich.

8-A Albert Bierstadt, Looking Down Yosemite Valley, California, 1865

Albert Bierstadt (American, 1830-1902), Looking Down Yosemite Valley, California, 1865. (Accession no. 191.879) Oil on canvas, 64 1/2 x 96 1/2 in. (163.8 x 245.1 cm.). Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, Ala.; Gift of the Birmingham Public Library.

8-B Black Hawk, “Sans Arc Lakota” Ledger Book, 1880-1881


8-B.5 Split Bars Pattern Quilt. Top: plain-weave and crepe wool; back: black-and-white twill printed-pattern plain-weave cotton. Circa 1935. Collections of the Heritage Center of Lancaster County. Overall dimensions 76” x 76”

8-B.6 Lone Star Pattern Quilt. Top: plain-weave wool; back: red, green, and white printed-plaid, plain-weave cotton. Circa 1920. Gift of Irene N. Walsh. Collections of the Heritage Center of Lancaster County. Overall dimensions 89” x 89”

8-B.7 Bars—Wild Goose Chase Pattern Quilt. Top: Plain-weave and crepe wool; back: wine-and-white floral-print, plain-weave cotton. Circa 1920. Gift of Irene N. Walsh. Collections of the Heritage Center of Lancaster County. Overall dimensions 72.5” x 79.5”


9-A Winslow Homer, The Veteran in a New Field, 1865


10-A Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Regiment Memorial, 1884-1897

Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907), Robert Gould Shaw and the Fifty-Fourth Regiment Memorial, Beacon and Park Streets, Boston, MA, 1884-1897. Bronze, 11 x 14 ft. (3.35 x 4.27 m.). Photograph by Courtesy of Carol M. Highsmith.

10-B Quilts of the 19th and 20th Centuries, Various artists

10-B.1 Hannah Greenlee (c. 1827-before 1896) and Emm Greenlee (died c. 1910), Crazy Quilt, begun by Hannah and finished by her daughter, Emm, 1896. Fabric scraps (some homespun), length 90 in. width 70 in. (228.6 x 181.6 cm). Historic Carson House, Marion, NC. Gift of Ruth Greenlee.

10-B.2 Susan Noakes McCord (1829-1909), McCordsville, Hancock County, Indiana), Grandmother’s Fan Quilt, c. 1900. Wool, silk, and cotton, length 80 1/2 in., width 70 1/2 in. (204.47 x 179.07 cm). From the Collections of The Henry Ford, Dearborn, Mich.


11-A Thomas Eakins, John Biglin in a Single Scull, c. 1873


11-B James McNeill Whistler, Harmony in Blue and Gold: The Peacock Room, 1876-1877

James McNeill Whistler (1834–1903), Harmony in Blue and Gold: The Peacock Room, 1876-1877 (two views). Oil paint and gold leaf on canvas, leather, and wood, room dimensions: height 13 ft. 11 5/8 in., width 33 ft. 2 in., depth 19 ft. 9 1/2 in. (425.8 x 1010.9 x 608.3 cm.), Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Gift of Charles Lang Freer, F1904.61.

12-A John Singer Sargent, Portrait of a Boy, 1890


12-B Childe Hassam, Allies Day, May 1917, 1917

13-A Walker Evans, *Brooklyn Bridge, New York*, 1929

13-B Louis Comfort Tiffany, *Autumn Landscape, 1923-1924*

Mary Cassatt (American, 1844-1926), The Boating Party, 1893/1894. Oil on canvas, 35 7/16 x 46 1/8 in. (90 x 117.3 cm). Chester Dale Collection. Image © 2006 Board of Trustees, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

14-B Joseph Stella, *Brooklyn Bridge, C. 1919-1920*
Joseph Stella (1877-1946), Brooklyn Bridge, c. 1919-1920. Oil on canvas, 84 x 76 in. (213.6 x 193.0 cm.) Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Conn. Gift of Collection Societe Anonyme.

15-A Charles Sheeler, *American Landscape, 1930*

15-B William Van Alen, *The Chrysler Building, 1926-1930*
William Van Alen (1883-1954), The Chrysler Building, 42nd Street and Lexington Avenue, New York, 1926-1930. Steel frame, brick, concrete, masonry, and metal cladding, height 104 6 ft. (318.82 m).


15-B.2 Detail. Steeple of the Chrysler Building in New York. © Photo Company/zefa/CORBIS.

15-B.3 Detail. Workers waterproofing Art Deco stainless steel eagle ornament of sixty-first floor. © Nathan Benn/CORBIS.

15-B.4 Detail. Thirty-first floor decoration based on radiator cap and hubcap designs. Photograph by Scott Murphy, Ambient Images, Inc.

15-B.5 Detail. Art Deco elevator doors at the Chrysler Building. © Nathan Benn/CORBIS.

16-A Edward Hopper, *House by the Railroad, 1925*

16-B Frank Lloyd Wright, *Fallingwater, 1935-1939*
Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959), Fallingwater (Kaufmann House, Mill Run, Pa.), 1935-1939.) Photograph courtesy of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

17-A Jacob Lawrence, *The Migration of the Negro Panel no. 57, 1940-1941*

17-B Romare Bearden, *The Dove, 1964*

18-A Thomas Hart Benton, *The Sources of Country Music, 1975*

19-A Norman Rockwell, *Freedom of Speech, The Saturday Evening Post 1943, 1943*


20-A Richard Diebenkorn, *Cityscape I, 1963*

20-B Martin Puryear, *Ladder for Booker T. Washington, 1996*
Martin Puryear (1941-), Ladder for Booker T. Washington, 1996. Wood (ash and maple), 432 x 22 3/4 in., narrowing at the top to 1 1/4 x 3 in. (1097.28 x 57.785 cm., narrowing to 3.175 x 7.6 cm.). Collection of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Gift of Ruth Carter Stevenson, by Exchange.
The NEH wishes to thank Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Smith for their generous contribution to Picturing America.