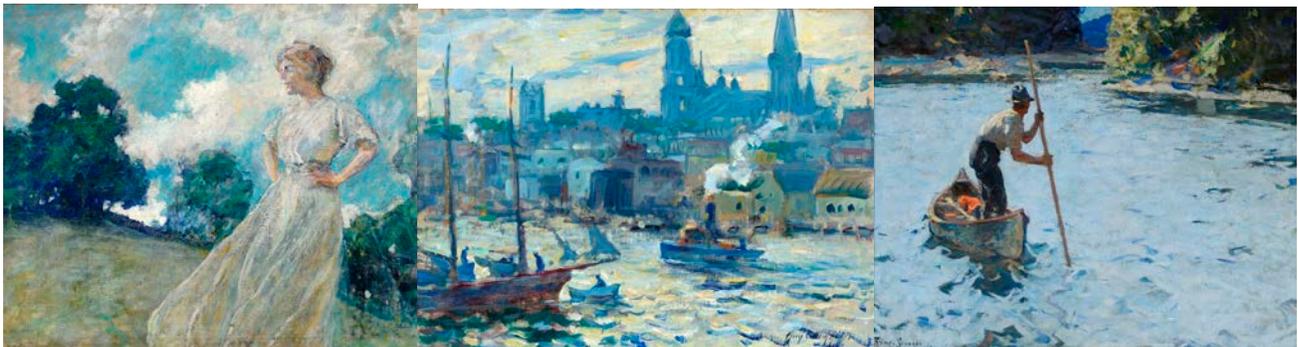


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AMERICAN IMPRESSIONISM: THE LURE OF THE ARTISTS' COLONY NOW OPEN AT NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART

Exhibition examines how artists' colonies across America brought together artists who shared a common aesthetic vision and cultivated an environment for future icons of the American Impressionist style.



Reno, Nev. (June 16, 2016) – Last month the Nevada Museum of Art welcomed works by 19th and 20th century American Impressionists from different artists' colonies across the United States. *American Impressionism: The Lure of the Artists' Colony* examines how artists' colonies across America—from Pennsylvania to California—brought together practitioners who shared a common aesthetic vision and were influenced by their environments. This exhibition will be on display through August 14 at the Nevada Museum of Art, Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts, E. L. Wiegand Gallery located at 160 West Liberty Street in downtown Reno.

Around the turn of the century American Impressionist painters began gathering in small, scenic towns to produce new work inspired by their surroundings. Known as artists' colonies, these niche communities thrived in locations that provided affordable living, abundant scenery and easy access to large cities so artists could sell their works. Within each colony artists taught, collaborated and escaped the daily rigor of their metropolitan studios, yielding lyrical landscapes, portraits and still-life compositions. This traveling exhibition comprises of works from the collection of the Reading Public Museum in Reading, Pennsylvania. More than sixty-five paintings and works on paper explore the path to American Impressionism which developed at the end of the nineteenth century—one that emphasized light and atmospheric conditions, rapid or loose brush strokes, and a focus on brightly colored scenes from everyday life.

The exhibition surveys artist colonies across Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Mexico and California. Artists working and living in each of these colonies produced work that reflected their regional surroundings. For example artists on the East Coast produced work depicting moody winter landscapes and coastal seascapes, while work from the American Southwest depicts desert scenes and Native American cultures.

Work from the Nevada Museum of Art's own collection is reflected in *The Lured West: Impressionism in California* portion of the exhibition. Artists in the Southern California and the San Francisco Bay Area colonies were lured by the state's mild climate, diverse natural beauty, and legendary light.

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The Society of Six, a group of artists based in the north San Francisco Bay, embraced the high pitch colors of European Fauvism (championed by artist Henri Matisse) and Post-Impressionism to paint landscapes *en plein air*, or outdoors, that verged on the modern.

American Impressionist artists were drawn to what have been described as “picturesque” themes, including rural peoples, women subjects and agricultural scenes as inspiration for their work. Debates surrounding the cultural implications of the term Picturesque have ignited discussions within the art history and cultural studies fields. For instance, do picturesque scenes conceal or avoid the cultural nuances and political subtexts underlying romantic subject matter? Many of the paintings in this exhibition provoke discussion about 19th century politics, gender, and class.

[Explore American Impressionism through these educational and entertaining offerings:](#)

ART BITE: DAVID MCCAMANT ON IMPRESSIONIST PAINTING TECHNIQUES

Friday June 17 | noon

Local artist and E.L. Cord Museum School instructor David McCamant will explore the painting techniques attributed to American and French Impressionism. From brushwork and composition to light and color theory learn more about how the Impressionists worked with paint to create their signature style. \$10 | FREE Museum members

SUMMER INTENSIVE: IMPRESSIONIST PAINTING TECHNIQUES IN OIL

Monday - Friday, June 20 - 24 / 9 am – noon

Inspired by the exhibition “American Impressionism” students will use oil paint to explore color, light and shadow in the style of the Impressionists. This series will explore brushwork techniques, cropped compositions, color breaking and mixing colors directly on canvas. Instructor: David McCamant Ages: Adult (15+) / All Levels
\$155 General / \$140 Museum members

ART BITE: SCOTT SCHWEIGERT ON AMERICAN IMPRESSIONISM AND THE LURE OF THE ARTISTS' COLONY

Friday July 15 | noon

Curator of Art and Civilization at the Reading Public Museum, Scott Schweigert is the curator of the exhibition *American Impressionism: The Lure of the Artists' Colony* and is a specialist in European art of the seventeenth century. Join Schweigert for a discussion on the emergence of artists' colonies during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as it relates to the American Impressionists. Learn more about the effect that these colonies had on artists' creativity, including the ability to collaborate, teach, and experiment in their work. \$10 | FREE Museum members

SUMMER INTENSIVE: IMPRESSIONIST LANDSCAPES

Monday - Friday, August 1 - 5 / 9 am – noon

Inspired by the exhibition “American Impressionism” students will use oil paint to explore color, light and shadow in the style of the Impressionists. This series will apply brushwork techniques while working from photo references of landscapes in the style of the Impressionists. Instructor: David McCamant Ages: Adult (15+) / All Levels
\$155 General / \$140 Museum members

TALK: REFLEXIONS OF IMPRESSIONISM IN AMERICA WITH BRIGID BARTON

Thursday August 11 | 6pm

Impressionism emerged as a style in 1870s France and very quickly spread among artists throughout Europe and the United States. In this talk, Brigid Barton will explore the beginnings of Impressionism in and around Paris, as well as the variants of Impressionism which proliferated in artists' colonies in America in the years before World War I.

Brigid Barton is an art historian specializing in modern European art. She is a retired professor from Santa Clara University and now teaches outreach courses for Stanford University, Santa Clara University, and the Jewish Community Center in Palo Alto. She also lectures at the Stanford Museum and the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

\$12 | \$8 Museum members | \$5 students

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American Impressionism: The Lure of the Artists' Colony is organized by the Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pennsylvania. It will be on view through August 14 at the Nevada Museum of Art, Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts, E. L. Wiegand Gallery located at 160 West Liberty Street in downtown Reno's Liberty District.

Sponsorship provided by Carole Kilgore Anderson, Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, and Scientific Games.

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About Reading Public Museum

www.readingpublicmuseum.org

The Reading Public Museum is located at 500 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611, and is open daily from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission to The Museum is: \$10 adults (18-64), \$6 children/seniors/students (w/ID) and free to Members and children three years old and under.

About Nevada Museum of Art

www.nevadaart.org

The Nevada Museum of Art is a museum of ideas. The only accredited art museum in the state, it is a private, non-profit organization supported by the generosity of its membership as well as by sponsorships and grants. Through creative programming and scholarship, the Museum provides the opportunity for people to encounter, engage and enjoy a diversity of art experiences. The Museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 6 pm, late on Thursdays until 8 pm, and closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and national holidays. Admission is FREE for members, \$10 General Admission, \$8 Student / Senior, \$1 children 6 to 12 years and free for children 5 and under. Annual Museum Membership starts at just \$30.

IMAGE CAPTIONS: (1) Robert Lewis Reid (American, 1862-1929), *Summer Breezes*, c. 1910 - 1920, oil on canvas, 33.75 x 39 inches, Reading Public Museum (2) Guy Carleton Wiggins, (American, 1883 - 1962), *Gloucester at Twilight*, 1916, oil on canvas, 21-3/8 x 25-1/8 inches, Gift, George D. Horst, Reading Public Museum (3) Frank Weston Benson (American, 1862-1951), *On Grand River*, c. 1930, oil on canvas, 36 x 44 inches, Reading Public Museum