

**Hubbard, Richard William (1816–1888)**

*Picnic in the Meadows*, 1880

signed “R. W. Hubbard” and dated lower left  
oil on canvas  
40” x 29”

**An American Respite**

As the country suffered from lingering physical and sociological damage resulting from the Civil War, paintings like *Picnic in the Meadows* by Richard William Hubbard reminded Americans of the country’s inherent greatness. Hubbard traveled extensively along the Hudson River Valley, in Vermont, and in Connecticut, in search of humble landscapes to use as the subject of his paintings.

*Picnic in the Meadows* showcases some of the preeminent characteristics of a typical Hudson River School landscape: a meticulous, factual representation of scenery, the acute observation of vegetation and rocks, and the careful rendering of light to achieve a harmonious and romantic composition. Hubbard frequently worked on a smaller scale, though here he is able to convey a vivid appreciation for color, space, and tone in extraordinary detail, despite the canvas’ ambitious size (1).

Hubbard moved to New York after graduation from Yale in 1837 and enrolled in the National Academy’s antiques class. After briefly studying with Samuel B. Morse, he left to study abroad in 1840. He spent most of the next decade in England and France, and moved to New York City upon his return to the United States. He remained in the city for the rest of his life, and was actively involved in the National Academy as an exhibitor and councilman, the Artist Fund’s Society as a founding member, and the Brooklyn Art Association as the president from 1873 to 1882.

-CRM

**Provenance:** From a private New York collection to the gallery.

**Bibliography:**

1. John Driscoll, *All That is Glorious Around Us: Paintings from the Hudson River School* (Ithaca: Cornell University, 1997), 94.

**Presentation notes:** In a 5” period reproduction fluted cove gilt frame with leaf and berry surround. Expertly cleaned.