



Robert Henri (American, 1865–1929)
Boulevard in Wet Weather, Paris, 1899
Oil on canvas, 25 x 32" (63.5 x 81.3 cm)
Gift of Meyer P. and Vivian O. Potamkin
 1964-116-6

Robert Henri

This painting was made on Robert Henri's honeymoon, which he spent in Paris with his new wife, Linda Craig, in 1899. The loose and fairly rapid application of pigment deftly evokes a sloshy street scene in the evening rain. Everything is drawn with the brush, rather than sketched in beforehand, which adds to the sense of immediacy in the work. It was this direct approach, combined with the artist's vigorous brushwork and fondness for seamy urban subject matter, that so appealed to the younger realist painters among The Eight. Although the blurred, dazzling light effects recall the work of the French Impressionists, especially the cityscapes of Pissarro, the murky palette, with strong contrasts of dark and light, are typical of Henri's moody renderings of the urban scene at night. The finished work utilizes this gloomy color scheme, alleviated here and there by flashes of bright red, to accurately convey the damp atmosphere of the city after a downpour.



Ernest Lawson (American, 1873–1939)
Landscape near the Harlem River, 1914
Oil on cardboard, 25¹/₂ x 21¹/₂" (64.8 x 54.6 cm)
Gift of Meyer P. and Vivian O. Potamkin
 1964-116-4

Ernest Lawson

The Canadian-born landscape painter, Ernest Lawson, had little in common with his realist colleagues. When Lawson moved to New York he was inspired by the Washington Heights area where he lived, which at that time consisted of sparsely populated farmlands and woods along the Harlem River, the scene of this work. The artist was interested in the landscape as a vehicle to capture inner emotional states and his pictures are often lonely expressions, uninhabited, yet rich in textural and chromatic variations. Lawson's paintings are characterized by bold brushwork and thickly encrusted surfaces of pigment, with deeply glowing colors and strong chiaroscuro. This rugged winter scene is typical of his poetic vision of the American landscape, where the bare trees and light dusting of snow are about to give way to the symphony of radiant spring colors.