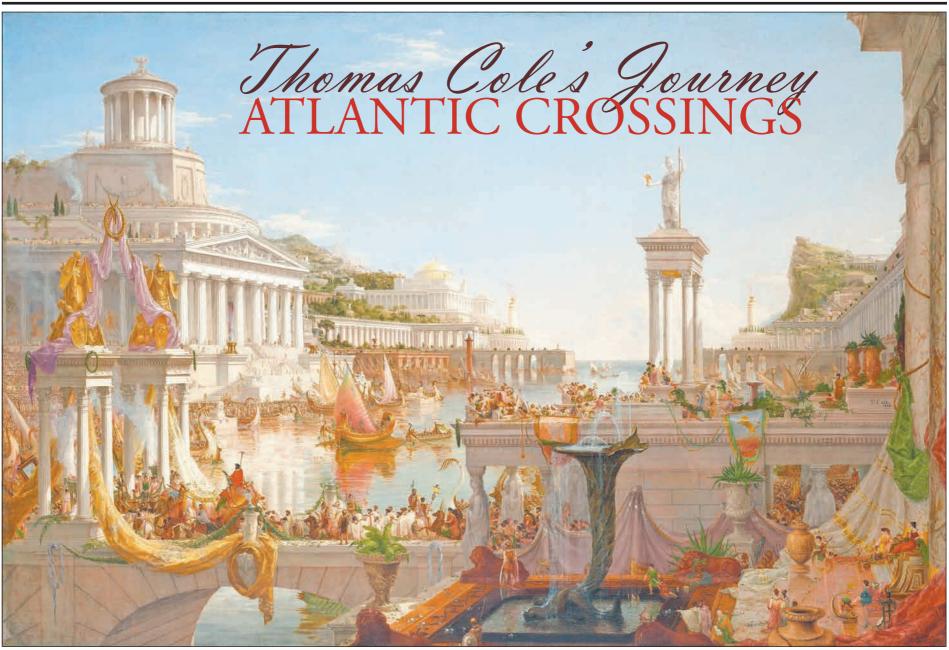
Newsstand Rate \$2.00

Published by The Bee Publishing Company, Newtown, Connecticut

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"The Course of the Empire: The Consummation of Empire" by Thomas Cole (1801-1848), 1835-36. Oil on canvas, 511/4 by 76 inches. New-York Historical Society, gift of the New-York Gallery of the Fine Arts, 1858. Digital image created by Oppenheimer Editions.

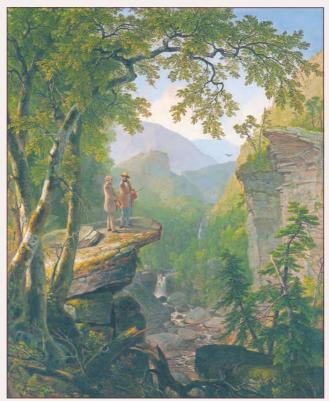
By Jessica Skwire Routhier

NEW YORK CITY — Thomas Cole's sublime landscape paintings defined American art for more than a generation in the mid-Nineteenth Century. Blessed with both generous skills and a singular vision, he helped to elevate American scenery to a subject worthy for art, as well as landscape painting itself to an art form that garnered the same respect as history painting and portraiture. We think of him today as the "founder" of the so-called Hudson River School of landscape painters: contemporaries, students and imitators who painted superlative views of the American wilderness, based in reality but laden with conscious and subconscious ideologies about nation, nature, race, progress and

"Thomas Cole's Journey: Atlantic Crossings" at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, January 30-May 13, explores how the residue of Cole's early life, working in British factories before emigrating to America at age 17, is manifest in his paintings in many ways. More importantly, however, it also examines a career-defining journey back to England, and then to France and Italy, from 1829 to 1832.

"The journey he took," says Elizabeth Mankin Kornhauser of the Met, "the early roots and then the journey back — really enriched not only his painting technique but his intellectual approach to depicting the American landscape.' The exhibition will travel to London's National Gallery in June, in a sense repeating Cole's own transatlantic journeys.

In an essay for the exhibition catalog, co-cura-



"Kindred Spirits" by Asher Brown Durand (1796-1886), 1849. Oil on canvas, 46 by 36 inches. Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

-Metropolitan Museum of Art photo

tor Tim Barringer, also of the Met, describes how Cole was born in 1801 in Bolton-le-Moors, in Lancashire, during the height of the Industrial Revolution. The economy in Bolton, which is near the industrial center of Manchester, was burgeoning at the time, with bustling factories and a growing population. Joseph Mallord William Turner's watercolor of Leeds, just 60 miles away, shows how, by this time, factories were as much an element of the northern landscape as

The new economy benefited locals unequally, however; as Cole's father struggled to adapt to mechanization and suffered various failed ventures, others outwardly protested the use of machines to replace human labor. Bolton was the site of a violent uprising in 1812 led by the Luddites, whose quasi-mythical leader Ned Ludd was depicted in a contemporaneous lithograph, clad in the calico fabric that the new factories were producing en masse.

In fact, the young Cole's first job, at 14, was as an engraver for a factory that produced these printed cottons; he was responsible for incising designs onto the wooden blocks used to stamp patterns onto the fabric. Within a few years he became an engraver's assistant for a company that produced the landscape prints that were increasingly popular in Britain at the time. In this context, Barringer argues, Cole would have had occasion to view the rapid industrialization of his native Lancashire in a new way. Along with the economic opportunities that new

(continued on page 8C)

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

Showplace Offers Asian, Fine & Decorative Arts Jan. 21



Rivaso vintage Mexican sterling silver coffee set.

NEW YORK CITY — Take a break from the cold weather on Sunday, January 21, when Showplace will present an auction of more than 275 lots of fine and decorative arts, furniture, lighting and more, beginning at noon.

Asian arts will incorporate a fine collection of Chinese white jade carvings, several Tibetan thangkas, a Tibetan or Himalayan metalwork horn, Japanese ikebana baskets and Chinese famille rose wine or tea pot, famille vert vase with genre scenes, white and celadon jade carving of lion cubs, vintage bronzed Guanyin, carved and polychromed head of the Buddha, a half-glazed pot, possibly Tang, celadon Longquan ginger jar vase, underglaze blue "100 Boys" jar, pair of celadon-glazed dragon vase lamps, Tang Dynasty bronze mirror, carved hardstone boy choy and Guanyin, carved and polychromed figure of a Tang equestrienne and another of a Ming warrior.

Fine art lovers will have plenty to choose from, including an André Dunoyer de Segonzac still life oil on canvas, a large André Lhote pastel on paper of a female nude, several Tove Olafsson bronze nudes, a Jimmy Lee Sudduth Outsider art still life, Yaacov Agam silkscreen and a Jiri K. Sehnal oil on panel.

Showplace will have a small but select group of vintage and antique tribal and antiquities items, including a carved wood Mancala game board, Yoruba carved divination tray and a bronze container, Zimbabwean figural sculpture, Gurunsi antelope headdress, Syro-Hittite clay heads of the goddess Astarte, monumental Holy Land pottery storage jars, Luristan bronzes of an ibex whetstone handle and a spear head, Pre-Columbian pair of dancing hairless Colima dogs and an Indonesian kris dagger in original sheath.

Jewelry highlights will feature a sapphire, ruby and enamel 18K gold pin, Lucien Piccard sapphire and 14K gold earrings, a Middle Eastern tribal gold-washed silver dowry necklace and a group of woman's pearl necklaces.

While silver will include a J. Rivaso Mexican Modernist sterling coffee service, Bruckmann &



Son heavy flatware service, International Silver platter and plate, and a Barbour Silver Co. marteléhammered fruit bowl.

Fans of porcelain and glass will appreciate the Wedgwood "Florentine Gold" dinnerware service for 12, the Bing & Grondahl "Belgian Stallion" figurine, Val St Lambert crystal cordial and wine glasses, Hertel-Jacob Bavaria dinnerware, Hawkes-style lead crystal glasses and Florence Naranjo Šan Ildefonso black pottery jar.

Furniture offers a Chinese Chippendale camelback sofa, an Italian parquetry commode, Baker empire-style American sideboard, John Widdicombe empire-style chest of drawers, Victorian Revival cherub-carved armchair, possibly Karpen, a Chinoiserie red and black lacquer low table, Victorian black marble and inlaid wood side table, set of four hexagonal-back armchairs after Frank Lloyd Wright and a Classical Revival alabaster and



tel on paper, female nude.

Jimmy Lee Sudduth (American, 1910-2007), still life painting by the Outsider artist.

> Large Holy Land pottery storage jar, 34 inches high on stand.

> end bag, Austrian cold-painted erotic bronze of a frolicking satyr and nude woman, Fyrwald Swedish officer's bullion epaulettes, Italian neoclassical pair of tolepainted lamps, a large and finelypainted Nineteenth Century German enamel on copper plaque of Antony and Cleopatra, Persian Iznik tile with Hebriac inscription, English Victorian aneroid wall barometer, Anna Carrier gilt-bronze figural lamps, circa 1855, depicting Raphael and Michelangelo, and a group of Andy Warhol autographs, including a rare signed check.

Previews are Monday to Friday, 10 am to 6 pm; and Saturday and Sunday, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. Showplace Antiques is at 40 West 25th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues. For information, 212-633-6063 or www.nyshowplace.com.

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tal, Louis Vuitton "Sirius" week-

bronze gueridon. Miscellaneous lots will include a

BRAFA 2018 Honors Christo As Guest Of Honor

BRUSSELS — The Brussels Antiques and Fine Art Fair (BRAFA), the first international art fair of the year, will be held from January 27 to February 4 at Tour & Taxis, Avenue du Port 88, 1000, combining 133 galleries and dealers from some 15 countries.

BRAFA announced that one of the most renowned and influential contemporary artists, Christo, will be guest of honor this year. One of his historic works from the 1960s will be presented at BRAFA 2018.

The work specially chosen by Christo for BRAFA is titled "Three Store Fronts" (1965-66); it first displayed at the municipal Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. Later it was included in the exhibition "Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Early Works,

1958-69" at the Martin-Gropius-Bau in Berlin in 2001. More than 45½ feet long and 8 feet tall, it will also be the largest work ever on show at

BRAFA. Christo (Christo Vladimiroff Javacheff, b June 13, 1935), an emblematic figure of New Realism, along with his late wife Jeanne-Claude (1935-2009), the inseparable duo has come to be known in particular for their wrapping of historic monuments and large-scale landscape instal-

lations. BRAFA offers top-ranking works of art and discoveries in a diversity of sectors ranging from archaeology, jewelry, painting, sculpture, furniture, design, glasswork, ceramics and porcelain, clocks, objets d'art, Sixteenth-Twentieth



Christo in his studio in front of preparatory works for The Mastaba project, New York City, 2012. Photo: Wolfgang Volz.

artists to contemporary works.

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FOR SALE Eighteen various pieces from the Hayes (1871) and Harrison (1892) presidencies. Some rare. Gorgeous Call or Email for list, prices,



Ex-Inmate Art At Ricco/Maresca Gallery Opening Alongside Outsider Art Fair



NEW YORK CITY—The Ricco/ Maresca Gallery presents, "Gil Batle: Re-Formed," featuring the work of Gil Batle, a former inmate whose bas-relief carved ostrich eggs are striking visual chronicles of the American penal system from the inmate's perspective.

Born and raised in San Francisco to Filipino parents, Batle spent more than 20 years in and out of California prisons for fraud and forgery. To rebuild his life as a free man, he moved to a small island in the Philippines, where he honed his innate drawing abilities through the unlikely medium of carved ostrich egg shells each with an architecture of pictorial panels, generally supported and separated by a fine lattice of chain-link fencing, razor-wire or hand-cuffs.

Batle's work and story have been featured in CBS Sunday Morning, The New York Times, The Paris Review, Slate and Huff-Post among many others. "Re-Formed" is the artist's second solo show at Ricco/Maresca Gallery, and runs through February 24.

The Ricco/Maresca Gallery is at

"Bully" by Gil Batle, 2017, carved ostrich egg shell, 61/2 by 5 by 5 inches, photo courtesy Ricco/Maresca Gallery.

529 West 20th Street. For information, 212-627-4819 or www.riccomaresca.com.

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