

4-16-2020

## Thomas Cole and the Destruction of American Nature (Flyer)

Alan Wallach  
*William and Mary College*



Thomas Cole (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). Gift of Mrs. Russell Sage, 1908 (08.228). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, U.S.A. Photo Credit: Image copyright © The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Image source: Art Resource, NY



# Interdisciplinary Explorations

## The Idea of Nature

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SPRING 2020

### Thursday, April 16, 2020 • 6 PM

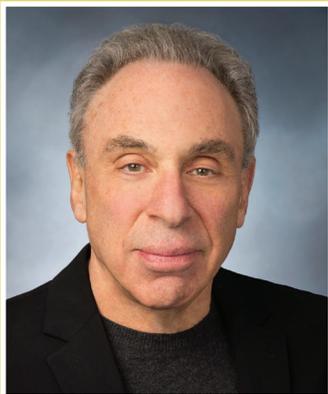
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## Thomas Cole and the Destruction of American Nature

**Alan Wallach**

*Ralph H. Wark Professor of Art and Art History Emeritus,  
William and Mary College*



Thomas Cole (1801-1848), today remembered as the “founder” of the Hudson River School, influenced two generations of American landscape painters. His followers--Asher B. Durand, Frederic Church, Albert Bierstadt, among others--lauded expansion and material progress. By contrast, Cole lamented the destruction of nature that progress entailed. His paintings and writings, which celebrate a nature untouched by modernization, went against the mainstream opinion of his time. Today they seem prophetic.



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