

LUMINISM

BY: SYDNEY PENN

LUMINISM

- This was an art style created in the mid 1800's.
- It is an American landscape painting style mainly characterized as showing the effects of light in landscapes; usually through aerial perspective.
- Luminism is characterized by attention to detail and the hiding of brushstrokes.
- Luminist landscapes emphasize tranquility, and often depict calm, reflective water and a soft, hazy sky.
- Notable Luminists: Fitz Henry Lane, George Caleb Bingham, John Fredrick Kensett

OFF MOUNT DESERT ISLAND (1856)

ARTIST: FITZ HENRY LANE



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THE WILDERNESS (1860)

ARTIST: SANFORD ROBINSON GIFFORD



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THE BUFFALO TRAIL (C.1867)

ARTIST:ALBERT BIERSTADT



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LAKE WAWAYANDA (1876)

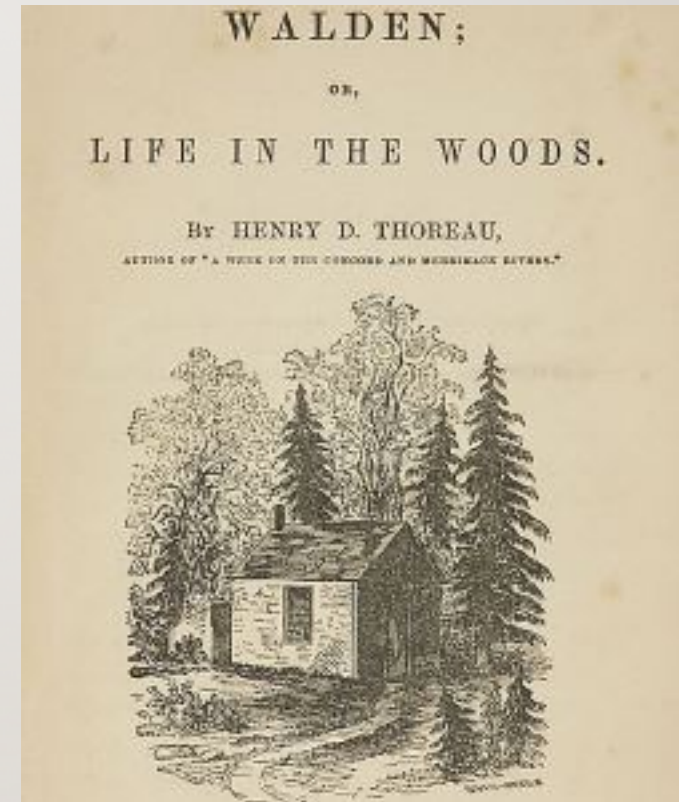
ARTIST: JASPER FRANCIS CROPSEY



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TRANSCENDENTALISM

- Transcendentalism was an American philosophy developed by Ralph Waldo Emerson beginning with his essay "Nature," published in 1836.
- It emphasized unity with nature as a connection to a higher or 'transcendental' knowledge and objected to the corrupting forces of institutions.
- In "Nature," he wrote that the human soul "is not an organ...not a faculty, but light...." Light, he felt, made the world "transparent" so the "light of higher laws than its own" can shine through it.
- Emerson established the Transcendentalism Club in 1836 in Cambridge, Massachusetts and was joined by many of the leading writers and thinkers of the time.



NAÏVE PAINTING

- Naïve, or folk, art was an important influence upon the development of Luminism.
- Edward Hicks, best known for his *Peaceable Kingdom* (1826), which depicts a Biblical scene in an American landscape, and was one of the 19th century's most reproduced works.
- Luminism drew upon the naïve tradition's linearism, bold outlines, and its minimalized elements to compose the landscape itself.



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GENRE PAINTING

- Early Luminist works, like those of William Sidney Mount and George Caleb Bingham combine genre painting with Luminist landscapes.
- Both were successful genre painters, and Bingham's most famous work, *Fur Traders Descending the Mississippi* (c. 1845), depicts a genre scene of the American frontier but expresses a Luminist light and atmosphere.
- Unlike other Luminist painters, Mount and Bingham emphasized the human figure, using bold outlines and a more vibrant color palette.
- Their treatment of landscape pointed the way to Luminism and subsequent painters like Grant Wood and other American Scene painters of the 1930s.



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PRINTMAKING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

- Many Luminists also worked in printmaking techniques such as lithography and engraving.
- Crystalline daguerreotype images were widely popular, and the attraction for scenes of refined clarity carried over into precise detail depicted in Luminist painting.
- The emphasis upon subtle gradations set the works of the Luminists apart from the more famous painters.



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THEATRE- SCENE DESIGN (JOSEF SVOBODA)

- Josef Svoboda was a Czech scenic designer
- His most famous works are those produced for the Czech National Theatre where he held the position of principal designer for over thirty years since 1948.
- His productions were revolutionary in the use of a combination of live actors and filmed scenes and for his introduction of contemporary materials and original special effects



<http://socks-studio.com/2015/10/10/light-shadows-projections-set-design-by-josef-svoboda/>

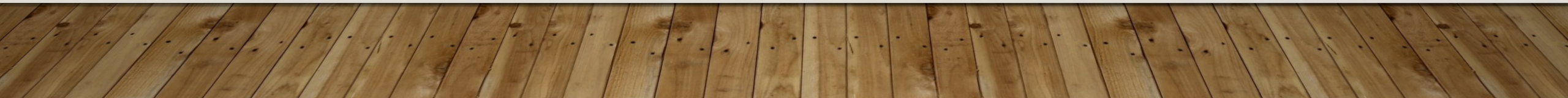
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THEATRE- LIGHTING

- Any lighting is a type of luminism, however luminism strongly emphasizes tranquility and beauty, so the lighting has to recreate this feeling.
- This can be seen in Most Happy Fella designed by Tom Sturge.



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/200269514650833713/>

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