



Paul Lacroix

Title

Strawberries in Landscape

Medium

Oil on academy board

Date

ca. 1865

Dimensions

8 1/2 × 10 1/4 in. (21.6 × 26 cm)

Accession number

96.6.2

Credit Line

Purchased with Museum funds, 1996

Web Description

In this delicate and diminutive painting, the artist Paul Lacroix frames a small stash of strawberries in the open air. The fresh picked bounty includes a few berries that do not appear as ripe as the others. As is a long-standing tradition with many still-life painters, the appearance of fruit gone bad, insects, or even skulls invoked themes of fleeting beauty and mortality. The placement of the fruit in a landscape, rather than in a dish or on a table, indicates the more current influence of the British art critic John Ruskin (1819-1900). Ruskin urged that artists create a more natural setting for still-life paintings of fruit, vegetables, and flowers.