



William Merritt Chase

Title

The Tow Path

Medium

Oil on canvas

Date

ca. 1880

Dimensions

10 × 14 1/2 in. (25.4 × 36.8 cm)

Accession number

2016.11.7

Credit Line

Richard M. Scaife Bequest, 2015

Web Description

One of the leading practitioners and teachers of American Impressionism, William Merritt Chase's painting *The Tow Path* lends an entrée into the time he spent with fellow artists as a member of The Tile Club, an association of lively young artists, writers, and musicians. After returning from his study in Europe, primarily in Munich, in 1878, Chase sought out the same artistic comradery he enjoyed abroad and established himself at The Tenth Street Studio Building in New York, where other important American painters such as Frederic Church and Winslow Homer had previously worked. As a member of The Tile Club, Chase participated in several of the club's summer excursions in a canal boat outfitted as a floating studio up the Hudson River, to the Erie Canal, to Lake Champlain, and around Long Island. On these trips, the artists would set up their easels along canal tow paths to sketch the view to the delight of the curious onlookers.