



James Welling

Title

Studio Mirror

Medium

Archival inkjet print on rag paper

Date

2010

Dimensions

42 × 28 in. (106.7 × 71.1 cm)

Accession number

2016.3.9

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Credit Line

Gift of the artist, 2016

Web Description

In 2010, Los Angeles-based artist James Welling began taking a series of color photographs inspired by the painter Andrew Wyeth. Welling started the Wyeth series as an examination of the artist's influence on his own career. This project represents one artist entering the creative mind of another artist. Welling was fascinated and challenged by what he saw in Wyeth's work. In order to experience the physicality of Wyeth's world, Welling went on location in Pennsylvania and Maine and photographed in the same areas where Wyeth painted throughout his life. His goal was not to make a literal record of these subjects, but rather to reference aspects of Wyeth's style, technique and palette. Welling's investigations led him to a greater understanding of the degree of painterly license found in many of Andrew Wyeth's works. In response, Welling digitally manipulated elements of many of his photographs in the studio in order to capture the moods and atmosphere of Wyeth's paintings. Welling captured this image while working in Wyeth's Chadds Ford studio, which is largely preserved as the artist left it at his death in 2009. A large mirror is a common feature of many artists' studios. By looking at their work in progress as reflected in a mirror, artists are able to get a new perspective on a painting, checking the composition and perspective through the intermediary image of the mirror.