



Andrew Wyeth, Adam Johnson

Title

Adam

Medium

Tempera on panel

Date

1963

Dimensions

24 1/4 × 48 in. (61.6 × 121.9 cm)

Catalogue Number

2002.9

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Credit Line

Gift of Anson McC. Beard, Jr., 2002

Web Description

Although the specifics are not always known, Wyeth did compensate his models. He had long relationships with many of them and at the time Wyeth painted this portrait he had known Farmer Adam Johnson for 30 years. In an extensive oral history, the artist recalls being drawn to Johnson as an imposing figure and one with a steady, confident presence. The sharp angles with which Wyeth renders Johnson's make-shift structures and tools contrast with the gently rounded curve of the hill. By choosing blue for the jacket, Wyeth draws the eye to the center of the composition and highlights Johnson's girth and commanding presence.