

CHAZEN MUSEUM OF ART
University of Wisconsin–Madison
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PRESS RELEASE
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British Watercolors on View at Chazen Museum of Art

The Chazen is pleased to present an exhibition of British watercolors taken from its own collection in *Drawing with a Brush: British Watercolors*, on view in the Mayer Gallery from November 10, 2007, through January 6, 2008.

In nineteenth-century England, watercolor painting was considered a close cousin of drawing. Along with writing, mathematics, and foreign languages, it was fundamental to a well-rounded education. The wealthy might pursue watercolor as a hobby, but an industrious and talented working-class person could build a career in the medium. Before photography was widespread, the quick and accurate depiction of a subject had practical applications as well as artistic value. Thus, a landscape painting might be appreciated by connoisseurs but also be useful to geologists, and an image of a distant cathedral could convey the awe of the sacred as well as the architectural style. Artists' enthusiastic embrace of watercolor and their audience's informed appreciation made it a competitive field, which spurred innovation and rewarded expertise. The Chazen's collection is distinguished, with watercolors recently loaned to the British Museum, the Tate Britain, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. *Drawing with a Brush: British Watercolors* shows the range of subjects and techniques the English developed in watercolor.

Related programming:

Gallery talk: Thursday Nov. 15, 5:30 p.m. "Drawing with a Brush: British Watercolors," gallery talk by Drew Stevens, curator of prints, drawings, and photographs, Mayer Gallery. Stevens will trace the development of British watercolor from its beginnings to the late nineteenth century, using examples from the exhibition.

Gallery talk: Wednesday Nov. 28, 12:30 p.m. "What Makes a Great Watercolor," gallery talk by Mary Alice Wimmer, artist and professor of art emerita. Mayer Gallery, Chazen. Using examples from the exhibition, artist Mary Alice Wimmer will discuss watercolor technique, watercolor's special features compared to other media, and what she believes makes a great watercolor.

Generous funding for this exhibition has been provided by the Chazen Museum of Art Council, Hilldale Fund, and Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin.

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The Chazen Museum of Art is open Tuesdays–Fridays 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission to galleries and educational events is free. The museum is located on the campus of the University of Wisconsin–Madison and is accessible to wheelchairs from the Murray Street (north) entrance. Parking is available at the city of Madison’s Lake Street and Frances Street ramps. Evening and weekend parking is also available under Grainger Hall with entrance on Brooks Street between University Avenue and Johnson streets. The Chazen will provide sign language interpreters for associated programs by three-week advance request to Anne Lambert, Curator of Education, weekdays, (608) 263-4421 (voice). Information is also available by visiting our Web site at www.chazen.wisc.edu.