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Louis Rémy Mignot, *Niagara*

Dominic Carter: This adventurous canvas by Louis Rémy Mignot takes us right to the edge of Niagara Falls and nearly pulls us in. Here, there's no framing device, no ground under our feet where we can stand and calmly enjoy the view. This unusual effect was greatly admired in its day, as was the vigorous brushwork of the rushing water and the delicate pink mist in the right half of the picture. Niagara Falls was already a symbol of America's spectacular natural beauty and a common subject of poems and landscape paintings.

Terry Carbone: This was less a document of a place than the expression of a mood. It was a huge success when he exhibited it in England. It really is his greatest picture.

Dominic Carter: The painting just to the left of *Niagara*, from 1989, also portrays a waterfall. Paint drips from the top of the canvas, evoking at the bottom the splash and foam of falling water. It's as if the artist Pat Steir took a detail of Mignot's *Niagara* and magnified it.

