

**News Release
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Department**

Brooklyn Museum of Art Catalogue, *Eastman Johnson: Painting America*, Receives Henry Allen Moe Prize from New York State Historical Association

April 2001

The catalogue that accompanied the Brooklyn Museum of Art exhibition *Eastman Johnson: Painting America* received the eighteenth annual Henry Allen Moe Prize, awarded by the New York State Historical Association to the outstanding catalogue in the arts published in New York State during 1999 at a ceremony in New York City on March 20, 2001. It was published by the Brooklyn Museum of Art in association with Rizzoli International Publications. The prize honors the memory of Henry Allen Moe, the scholar and humanist who served as President of the New York State Historical Association.

The catalogue is the first major publication on Eastman Johnson since 1972 and the first ever to illustrate his work in full color. In addition to the color reproductions of all of the works in the exhibition, it includes 106 black-and-white comparative illustrations. In December 1999 the *Wall Street Journal* named the catalogue among the year's top ten art books. The exhibition was also honored last year by the New York Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America for enhancing public understanding of the metropolitan area's heritage.

Two essays by Teresa A. Carbone explore Eastman Johnson's early career and student years in Europe and the progress of his career in New York from 1860 to 1880, when he was the country's foremost figure painter. Patricia Hills's essay provides an analysis of the artist's numerous and original images of African Americans within the period of the Civil War and Reconstruction. Jane Weiss writes about Johnson's domestic subjects in the context of the burgeoning domestic-fiction movement of

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the period. A comparative study of Eastman Johnson and Winslow Homer in the postwar years is the subject of an essay by Sarah Burns. The concluding essay by Anne C. Rose explores the artist as member of the Civil War generation. The catalogue also includes a large selection of the artist's letters, many of which were published for the first time, as well as a lifetime exhibition chronology that comprises the first full listing of all exhibition records of Johnson's work through the 1907 Century Association Memorial Exhibition.

The exhibition was made possible by The Henry Luce Foundation, Inc., and the Gilder Foundation. Additional support was provided by the Richard and Jane Manoogian Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. John S. Tamagni, and Blair W. Effron.

Support for the catalogue was provided through the generosity of Furthermore, the Publication Program of The J. M. Kaplan Fund, and a BMA publications endowment established by the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Eastman Johnson: Painting America, the first retrospective in more than twenty-five years of works by one of the most important American painters of the nineteenth century, was organized by the Brooklyn Museum of Art, where it was on view October 29, 1999 through February 6, 2000, before traveling to the San Diego Museum of Art and to the Seattle Art Museum. The curators were Teresa A. Carbone, Curator of American at the BMA, and Patricia Hills, the preeminent Eastman Johnson scholar.

Past BMA winners of the Moe Prize have been *Objects of Myth and Memory: American Indian Art at The Brooklyn Museum* (1992), by Diana Fane et al., and *Northern Light: Realism and Symbolism in Scandinavian Painting, 1880–1910* (1983), by Kirk Varnedoe, Sarah Faunce et al.

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