



WINSLOW HOMER (1836-1910)

Towing the Boat

watercolor and pencil on paper

6 1/2 x 11 1/4 in. (14 3/4 x 19 1/2 x 1 1/2 in.)

1878

32498

PROVENANCE:

Private Collection, Minnesota

Private Collection, California, 1998

Winslow Homer (1836-1910) was a prolific painter and printmaker whose work, as both an illustrator and artist, is central to American art. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Homer demonstrated early artistic skill and was apprenticed to the Boston commercial lithographer John H. Bufford. Two years into his apprenticeship, however, Homer decided to pursue work as a freelance artist, which he remained for the rest of his life.

After briefly studying oil painting, Homer worked as a commercial illustrator for magazines such as Harper's Weekly. Eventually, Harper's sent him as an artist-correspondent to the front lines of the American Civil War. Covering the war, Homer would begin to produce genre paintings that served more than a journalistic or illustrative function; these paintings instead captured the war's deep emotional and societal impact. Homer's striking Civil War paintings signaled the beginning of his career as a painter, and his remarkable eye for the key inflection points of American society and culture in the mid to late 19th century. Depicting such poignant topics as the changing role of women, gender relationships, uncaricatured African Americans, the majesty of the American landscape, and the deep and lasting rifts of the Civil War, Homer's work is key to the canon of American art. His paintings hang on prestigious museum walls worldwide and his work is continually a subject of new scholarship and debate.

Homer's work is represented in the collections of the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Smithsonian American Museum of Art, Washington D.C.; The Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Texas; and the Portland Museum of Art, Oregon among many others.

The information and material herein represents Gallery's best efforts and understanding of the current history and scholarship with respect to the provenance of the Work(s) of Art described and is not part of any warranty.



Towing the Boat
Winslow Homer











reply to yours of the 26th and 30th, I am
is water color 'Towing the Boat'.

OWING THE BOAT
by
WINSLOW HOMER

TOWING THE BOAT
by
WINSLOW HOMER

In reply to yours of the 26th and 30th, I am
calling Mr. Cole's water color 'Towing the Boat'.

This watercolor, although not dated, seems
to me to belong definitely to Homer's work of the summer
of 1878 at Houghton Pass, Mountaineville, New York.....

About the history of Mr. Cole's picture, he
wrote me that the picture came to him from his father-in-
law, Mr. Charles E. Morrill, for many years president of
Valentine & Co., who lived in Chicago. As you know,
Winslow Homer's brother, Charles E. Homer was an officer
of Valentine & Co. Mr. Cole told me that his father-in-
law was a particular friend of Charles E. Homer.

I know of one or two other works of Homer formerly
owned by Mr. Allan A. Morrill, brother of Charles E. Morrill.
Mr. Cole is not sure whether his father-in-law received the
pictures direct from Homer or through the O'Brien galleries
in Chicago. In one of his letters he said that Mr. Morrill
had acquired the pictures 'over fifty years ago.'

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Lloyd Goodrich
author of WINSLOW HOMER,
published by the
Whitney Museum of
American Art

