

Brooklyn Museum

Press Release

May 2017

Conservation Will Take Place in View of the Public on the Brooklyn Museum Collection Masterpiece *A Storm in the Rocky Mountains, Mt. Rosalie*, by Albert Bierstadt, from June 7 to July 15, 2017

Visitors to the Brooklyn Museum will have the opportunity to observe Museum conservators conducting preservation efforts on the collection masterpiece *A Storm in the Rocky Mountains, Mt. Rosalie* (1866), by Albert Bierstadt. Conservation will take place in view of the public on Wednesdays through Sundays from June 7 through July 15, 2017, from 2 to 5 pm in the 5th Floor Rotunda gallery.

“The conservation of this masterpiece is taking place in the Rotunda partly due to the object’s large size, which limits its maneuverability,” states Lisa Bruno, Carol Lee Shen Chief Conservator. “However, this provides a unique opportunity to share with the public an aspect of preservation that is usually done behind the scenes. We’re looking forward to this project’s transparency and to showcase the importance of preservation to the public.”

The painting will return to the American Art galleries once conservation is complete. These conservation efforts are in preparation for an upcoming exhibition of the Museum’s American landscapes, organized and curated by Kim Orcutt, Brooklyn Museum Andrew W. Mellon Curator of American Art. The exhibition will travel to multiple venues before ending its tour at the Museum.



Albert Bierstadt (American, born Germany, 1830–1902). *A Storm in the Rocky Mountains, Mt. Rosalie*, 1866. Oil on canvas, 83 x 142 ¼ in. (210.8 x 361.3 cm). Brooklyn Museum, Dick S. Ramsay Fund, Healy Purchase Fund B, Frank L. Babbott Fund, A. Augustus Healy Fund, Ella C. Woodward Memorial Fund, Carl H. de Silver Fund, Charles Stewart Smith Memorial Fund, Caroline A. L. Pratt Fund, Frederick Loeser Fund, Augustus Graham School of Design Fund, Museum Collection Fund, Special Subscription, and John B. Woodward Memorial Fund; Purchased with funds given by Daniel M. Kelly and Charles Simon; Bequest of Mrs. William T. Brewster, Gift of Mrs. W. Woodward Phelps in memory of her mother and father, Ella M. and John C. Southwick, Gift of Seymour Barnard, Bequest of Laura L. Barnes, Gift of J. A. H. Bell, and Bequest of Mark Finley, by exchange, 76.79

Lauren Bradley, Associate Paintings Conservator, and Jessica Ford, Assistant Paintings Conservator, will focus on removing surface dirt and deposition from the painting and its gesso and gilt frame. The painting received its last extensive treatment in 1976.

About *A Storm in the Rocky Mountains, Mt. Rosalie*

Composed from on-the-spot sketches made in Colorado during the artist’s second expedition west in 1863, the painting is intended to convey the sublimity of the western frontier. Its grand scale and panoramic scope offer an immersive experience. A group of Native Americans hunting deer draws viewers into the foreground, while the background is animated by rushing water, extreme contrasts of cast light and shadow, and mountains soaring into breaking clouds. Bierstadt named the highest peak, Mount Rosalie (now Mount Evans), after the wife of his travel companion, the famed author and explorer Fitz Hugh

Ludlow. Rosalie Ludlow divorced her husband and married the artist a few months after the painting's debut. The canvas drew admiring crowds when it toured the United States and London in the late 1860s, and it was purchased by an English collector by 1866. It was then thought to be lost for nearly a century before its rediscovery in 1974.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Admission:

Contribution: \$16; students with valid I.D. and seniors \$10. Ages 19 and under FREE. Also FREE first Saturday of the month (except September), 5–11 pm. Group tours or visits must be arranged in advance by calling 718.501.6234.

Discounted \$12 tickets for *Georgia O'Keeffe: Living Modern* are available during *Target First Saturdays*.

Programs are subject to change without notice. For more information, visit www.brooklynmuseum.org.

Directions:

Subway: Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/ Brooklyn Museum stop; Lexington Avenue express (4 or 5) to Nevins Street, cross platform and transfer to the 2 or 3.
Bus: B41, B69, B48. On-site parking available.

Museum Hours:

Wednesday and Friday, 11 am to 6 pm; Thursday, 11 am to 10 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 6 pm; first Saturday of each month (except September), 11 am to 11 pm. Closed Monday, Tuesday, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.