

INTRODUCTION

New York State's Hudson River Valley is a land of rolling hills and streams on both shores, extending north from New York City to the Catskill Mountains. In the mid-nineteenth century, a group of artists who were impressed by the natural beauty of this region and recorded it in paint, came to be known as the Hudson River School. Their landscapes of the river and its banks, infused with romantic idealism, were an early manifestation of the American belief in the power of nature to inspire human artistic expression. Still beautiful today, the Hudson River Valley continues to motivate landscape painters, including Robert Trondsen and Kevin Cook.

The village of Goshen, west of the Hudson River, in Orange County, was founded nearly 300 years ago. By 1838 Goshen had become well-known as the center of American harness racing. Hambletonian 10, the ances-

tor of all American standardbred trotting horses, was born and raised on a farm in Orange County and raced in Goshen. Exhibition racing in Goshen continues today at Historic Track, the oldest horse racing track still in use in the United States. Goshen's Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame celebrates this exciting sport and its great traditions. The images of harness racing in this exhibition should be familiar to many embassy visitors, as the "sport of kings" is as popular in Hong Kong as it is in Goshen.

I am proud to introduce you to some of the artists from this beautiful and historic area, which has been home to my family for more than four generations.

Joe Donovan
Consul General

Hong Kong

JOHN GOULD 1906-1996

John Gould had a long career in art, both as an artist and art instructor. He was also well-known as a lecturer on art, particularly on oriental painting. In 1957 Gould established the Bethlehem Art Gallery and Art School located near Newburgh, New York. He was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, studied art at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, and later taught at Pratt for twenty-two years. He was a prominent illustrator for *The Saturday Evening Post* for more than eight years, and an illustrator for many national corporations. In the world of fine arts, Gould was a successful painter. His oil paintings and watercolors are in many private collections. For content, he was partial to historical subjects.

www.currierandives.com



Harriman Fountain, undated
Digital print on canvas, 33 ¾ x 44 ½ in. (85,7 x 113 cm)
Courtesy of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame,
Goshen, New York, and Bethlehem Art Gallery,
Salisbury Mills, New York

COVER Currier and Ives **The Grand Trotter St. Julien**, undated. Color Lithograph, 20 x 29 ¾ in. (50,8 x 75,6 cm)
Courtesy of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame, Goshen, New York

ROBERT TRONDSEN 1937

"When creating a landscape, I visualize the view under the best possible lighting conditions and even move a mountain or two if it will improve the composition. Every scene, no matter how seemingly unspectacular at the moment, can become a stunning display of light and atmosphere as the sun works its way across the sky. Clouds hovering behind the tree line. An early morning mist hanging over the ponds. The warm evening sun casting gold upon the meadows. Sunsets that made you wish there was someone with you to witness the miracle you were seeing. They are one-of-a-kind visions that will be imprinted in your memory, ready to be awakened by a visual reminder on canvas."

Robert Trondsen received his degree in advertising art and design at the State University of New York, and worked as an illustrator and designer in advertising in New York City. His advertising and editorial work included on-screen special projects for many popular motion pictures, and his projects for Woody Allen's *Zelig* are in the permanent collection of The Museum of the Moving Image in New York City. Beginning his career as a still life painter, Trondsen expanded into landscapes in the tradition of the Hudson River, producing luminous landscapes that border on the ethereal.



Natural Power, 2008

Oil on canvas,
47 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 37 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.
(120,3 x 94,9 cm)

Courtesy of the artist,
Goshen, New York



Mystery Hour, 2008

Oil on canvas,
30 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.
(77,5 x 92,7 cm)

Courtesy of the artist,
Goshen, New York

CURRIER AND IVES 1835-1907

The printmaking firm of Currier & Ives produced some of the most iconic and popular American illustrations of the nineteenth century. The company, headed by Nathaniel Currier (1813-1888) and James Merritt Ives

(1824-1895), specialized in publishing hand colored lithographic prints that were sold inexpensively to a growing American middle class.

www.currierandives.com



Volunteer, 1869

Color lithograph, 18 ¾ x 26 ¾ in. (47,6 x 67,9 cm)

Courtesy of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame,
Goshen, New York



The Grand Trotter St. Julien, undated

Color Lithograph, 20 x 29 ¾ in. (50,8 x 75,6 cm)

Courtesy of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame,
Goshen, New York



Trotting Stallion Stamboul by Sultan, 1890

Color lithograph, 13 ¼ x 17 ¾ in. (33,7 x 45,1 cm)

Courtesy of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame, Goshen, New York



Pacer, c. 2006. Resin/bronze finish, 7 x 17 x 9 in. (17,8 x 43,2 x 22,9 cm). Courtesy of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame, Goshen, New York



ANONYMOUS SCULPTOR

The Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame is a museum and historic race track in Goshen, New York. The museum collects and preserves the history of harness racing and serves as a hall of fame for trotting horses. It is a Registered Historic Place and contributing property to the Church Park Historic District in Goshen.

Orange County was the birthplace of Hambletonian 10, a stallion bred by Jonas Seely, Jr. on his farm in Orange County. This horse was the ancestor of all American standardbred trotting horses, and many of the early trotting races were held in Goshen. Established in 1838, the neighboring Historic Track is a National Historic Landmark, the oldest horse track still in use in the United States. Stables still operate on the grounds and exhibition races are held annually. The museum opened in 1951.

Trotter, c. 2006
Resin/bronze finish, Overall: 7 x 17 x 9 ½ in. (17,8 x 43,2 x 24,1 cm). Courtesy of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame, Goshen, New York

SHERMAN H. RAVESON 1905-1974

During his long career in the arts, Sherman Raveson was a painter, stage designer for Broadway productions, author, art editor, and art director for many leading publications, including *Vanity Fair* and *Life*. He attended Cumberland University in Tennessee, and the Art Students League in New York City. Raveson's paintings were exhibited at the National Advertising Awards, the Chicago Galleries Association (Illinois), the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, (Philadelphia), the National Academy of Design (New York City), the American Watercolor Society, and the 1939 New York World's Fair. He is particularly known today for his equestrian subjects.

www.askart.com



Greyhound, undated
Digital print from painting, 36 ½ x 36 ½ in. (92,7 x 92,7 cm)
Courtesy of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame, Goshen, New York

KEVIN COOK 1958

"I believe landscape painting to be a vital and integral expression in the contemporary art scene. It is inspired by the past, yet defined by present environmental realities. Essentially a realist, I incorporate strong undercurrents of romanticism into my work. In the romantic tradition, I seek to give my landscapes deep emotional meaning, manipulating them into emotional dream worlds through subdued brushwork and diffused light.

Although my subjects are largely familiar local scenes, they serve merely as a framework or vehicle for expressing the spiritual truths I seek. The works are largely unpopulated, quiet, still, emphasizing an inner peace or the spirit of each place. Aspects of the works indicate inspiration, eternal life, the passage of time, and the process of nature."

www.kevincook.com

Twilight on the Palisades, 2007

Oil on canvas, 18 x 30 in. (45,7 x 76,2 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, New Paltz, New York

Kevin Cook was born in a rural community in New York State surrounded by farms and gentle woodlands. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the State University at New Paltz, New York in 1980, where he discovered the work of the Hudson River School, and that of English Romanticist painter John Constable. Cook's subject matter includes rural scenes, encompassing the nearby Catskill Mountains and Hudson River. He exhibits extensively throughout the Hudson River Valley.



THE ART IN EMBASSIES PROGRAM



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The ART exhibitions are a source of great pride to U.S. ambassadors, assisting them to reach the host country's educational, cultural, business, and diplomatic communities. In viewing the exhibitions, the thousands of guests who visit U.S. Embassy residences each year have the opportunity to learn about our nation – its history, customs, values, and aspirations – by experiencing American art firsthand. Detailed information about the Program may be obtained by accessing the ART web site, <http://aiep.state.gov>.

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