



German-American Artists from Cincinnati

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

Introduction

The late 19th century produced four American Impressionists from Cincinnati, all born to German immigrants: Robert Frederick Blum (1857-1903), Joseph Rodefer DeCamp (1858-1923), Edward Henry Potthast (1857-1927) and John Henry Twachtmann (1853-1902). In their art, they preferred using brighter colors, depicting leisure time and portraying mood over morals. They were students of Frank Duveneck (1848-1919), who studied and opened an art school in Munich, Germany. DeCamp, Potthast and Twachtmann followed Duveneck to Munich, while Blum went to Venice. Eventually, all five returned to the United States where they joined American schools of art, taught and won numerous art awards, including a silver medal at the Columbian Exposition in 1893 for Twachtmann and a gold medal at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904 for DeCamp. Duveneck moved back to the Cincinnati area; the others settled on the east coast.

Important Dates

- 1869: Duveneck studies with Wilhelm von Diez and Wilhelm Leibl at the Royal Academy of Munich.
- 1870: DeCamp follows Duveneck to the Royal Academy of Munich.
- 1875-1877: Twachtmann studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich.
- 1878: Duveneck opens his own art school in Munich.
- 1880-1881: Blum studies art in Venice.
- 1881-1885: Potthast studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich.
- 1883: DeCamp moves to Boston where he joins the Boston School of painting.
- 1885: Potthast returns to Cincinnati until 1895 when he moves to New York City.
- 1886: Twachtmann settles in Connecticut.
- 1893: Twachtmann exhibits his work in New York alongside Claude Monet.

Suggested Search Strategies

- Try the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), proximity or as phrases: McMicken School of Design, National Academy of Design, John Twachtmann, Robert Blum, Joseph DeCamp, Edward Potthast, and Frank Duveneck (try using their middle names or initials as well).
- Limit your search by date to find information limited to when the men were well-known.
- Search newspapers in all states since the men settled and showed art in a number of areas.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- "[John H. Twachtmann.](#)" *Indiana Tribüne* (Indianapolis, IN), August 9, 1902, Image 1, col. 4.
- "[Death of R. F. Blum](#)" *New-York Tribune* (New York, NY), June 10, 1903, Image 9, col. 4.
- "[Artists are Honored](#)" *Evening Star* (Washington, DC), December 8, 1908, Image 4, col. 2.
- "[Paintings of Grand Canyon](#)" *Perrysburg Journal* (Perrysburg, OH), May 3, 1912, Image 8, col. 6.
- "[Auszeichnungen](#)" *Tägliches Cincinnatier Volksblatt* (Cincinnati, OH), July 24, 1915, Image 5, col. 5.
- "[In the National Gallery of Art](#)" *Evening Star* (Washington, DC), April 2, 1916, Image 81.
- "[Overseas Exhibit of American Art by Mrs. Whitney](#)" *Evening World* (New York, NY), November 7, 1921, Racing Final, Image 32, col. 8.