

# Winslow Homer: The Clark Collection (Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute)

Marc Simpson

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Winslow Homer (1836–1910) is one of the core figures of 19th-century American art. While most well-known for his oil paintings of Civil War scenes and the windswept Atlantic coastline, Homer's oeuvre encompasses a variety of themes, ranging from childhood games through the life-and-death struggles of man and nature. The Clark Art Institute holds one of the greatest collections of Homer's work across all media, including wood engravings, etchings, watercolors, drawings, and paintings from nearly all phases of his career. The collection was assembled predominately by Robert Sterling Clark (1877–1956), who purchased his first Winslow Homer painting in 1915, followed by *Two Guides* in 1916 and maintained a passion for the artist throughout the rest of his collecting career, acquiring the small oil *Playing a Fish* in 1955.

This book examines Robert Sterling Clark as a collector of Homer and the Clark's extensive holdings of the artist. Over thirty entries discuss the role of individual works in Homer's oeuvre and their larger significance to the art world. An illustrated checklist provides information on titles, dates, and media for the entire collection.



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