

NEWS RELEASE
National Gallery of Art
Washington, D. C.

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WASHINGTON, December 13: An important American painting by Winslow Homer, Hound and Hunter, a new gift for the National Gallery of Art, is announced by David E. Finley, Director.

"Mr. Stephen C. Clark of New York", Mr. Finley said, "has given this canvas from his notable collection of American paintings. The National Gallery can now show Homer as a painter of Adirondack hunting scenes as well as of seascapes."

The new acquisition shows a young hunter lying in the bottom of an Adirondack guide boat and grasping with both hands the antlers of a deer he has just shot. A hound is seen swimming in from the left.

John Walker, Chief Curator of the National Gallery of Art, mentioned the fact that Hound and Hunter, like the National Gallery's other Homer, Breezing Up, required two or three years to complete. It was finished in 1892. "During 1891 and 1892", Mr. Walker continued, "Homer spent the summer and the early fall in the Adirondacks and was preoccupied painting scenes connected with wild animal life, especially trapping and deer hunting. Hound and Hunter is one of the outstanding achievements of this period.

"For this particular painting, Homer had an ambitious scheme:- It was to have been published first in Harper's Weekly, then as a popular print, and then exhibited in Boston for sale at two thousand dollars. The scheme was not carried out and the painting did not come to its first owner until 1902, when Homer had already gained recognition as one of the most eminent of American painters."

"Homer himself was very proud of Hound and Hunter. He wrote his brother Charles that the canvas was a great work and referred to the fact that he had spent more than a week painting the hunter's hands. The care with which the painting was executed has not, however, lessened its vigorous actuality", Mr. Walker concluded, "It is a masterpiece of dramatic painting, as colloquial and American in feeling as the stories of Mark Twain or of Ernest Hemingway."

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John Stearns
FESKINE CALDWELL