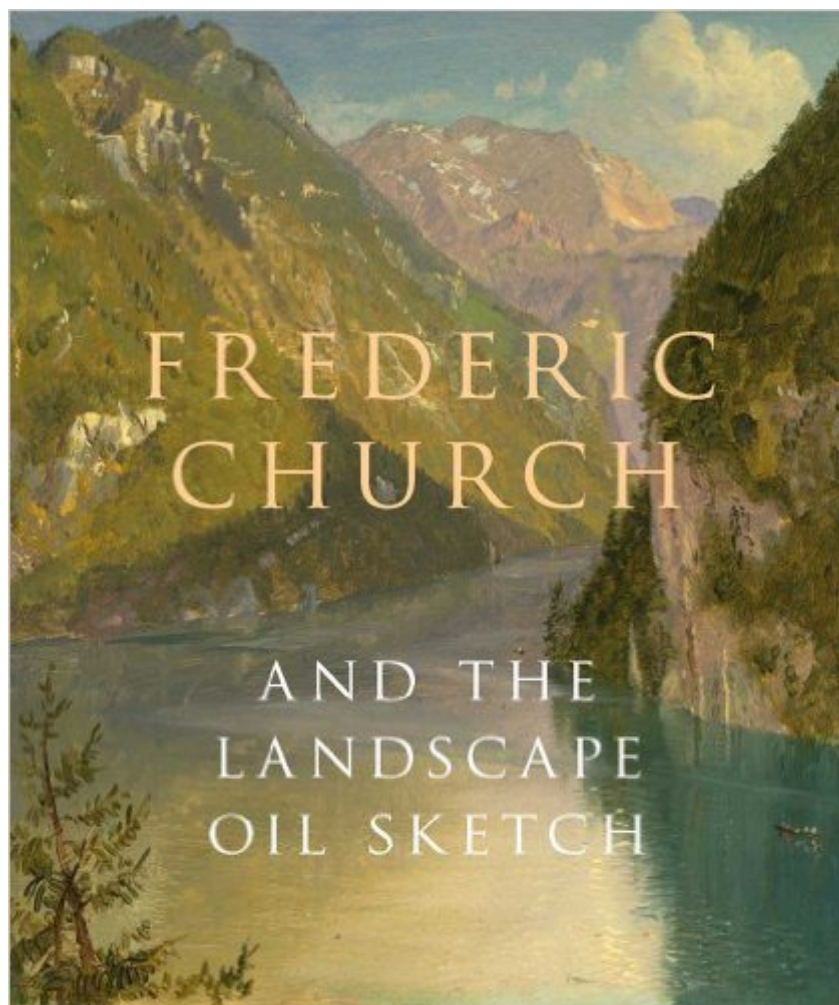


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# Frederic Church And The Landscape Oil Sketch (National Gallery London)



## Synopsis

A key member of the Hudson River School, Frederic Church (1826–1900) rose to fame as the creator of some of America's most iconic landscape paintings. He also traveled abroad extensively, making trips to Jamaica, South America, Europe, and the Middle East. At home and away, Church made numerous plein air oil sketches of the landscapes he saw, some magnificent, some humble, many of them later subjects for his full-scale paintings. Frederic Church and the Landscape Oil Sketch features some thirty sketches Church executed during his career. Many of these wonderful works come from Olana, the artist's magnificent home overlooking the Hudson River. As Andrew Wilton's essay explains, these informal and often spontaneous sketches played a vital role in the practice and pedagogy of landscape painting in American art just as they did in European art of the 19th century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I happened to be in London in April and I caught the exhibition for which this is the catalog. I bought the book at the National Gallery as a memento. As the title suggests, the exhibition had about 25-30 oil sketches of Church. I've seen a number of Church's famous large canvases (Icebergs, Heart of the Andes, Niagara Falls) and so it was nice to see these more intimate pieces, many of which were painted during his various travels to South America, Europe, the Middle East and the Arctic. A nice thing with the exhibition is that they brought the huge Niagara Falls painting from Edinburgh down

(not the famous one from the Corcoran gallery in Washington DC, but still a great painting) as an example of a finished work. The book has an introduction to Church with some reproductions of his famous works (although the book format is a bit too small to give these justice), and then the catalog of the pictures from the exhibition. If you want a general overview of Church's career with all his famous works, then this is not the book to get. It is a good companion book to one of these overviews, though, giving a different insight into his work and methods.

I like Church very much mostly for his facility at handling natural effects. This book has many things not often seen. Niagara Falls is great, but how many repro's do you need? Nice size, good color, full page repro's, mostly all in color. It's almost worth it for the painting on the cover. Taken by themselves, these oil "sketches" would likely be called impressionist.

A small volume but the reproduction quality is excellent and the paintings display a dazzling virtuosity with paint and a welcome freshness. Beautiful scenes of twilit arctic seas and hidden mountain lakes. In fact I prefer these sketches to most of church's finished works due to their spontaneity and energy.

This is a welcome addition to my master artists collection. I am glad I ordered it. Although I do not work in oils, I like to learn from the masters and then adapt my own style accordingly.....in the media I like most.

At first I thought I'd be disappointed-- but even though the book is small, the reproductions are lovely and seeing such huge paintings on a small, intimate scale was actually quite nice.

A nice review of his sketches which offers a fascinating glimpse of how he prepared for his masterwork canvases. Working fast and outdoors, his sketches anticipate the attitude and work of the impressionists.

A great publication, full of color images of Church's oil sketches. A real treasure for lovers of his work and painters wanting to see how he lays out an oil sketch, his brushwork, sketching etc.

A truly fine artist of his time. Here too more color pictures to get to know the artist better. He truly was a master. Thanks.

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