

Rhenish-Belgian Gallery

Active Dates: July 1853–October 1853

Gallerist: unknown

Location:

663 Broadway, New York, New York, National Academy of Design

Specialty: German and Belgian artists from the Dusseldorf School of Painting.

Gallery History

The Rhenish-Belgian Gallery opened in July, 1853, in the upstairs gallery of the National Academy of Design.¹ Exhibition of the work was on display before it was auctioned off by the private company of Henry H. Leeds & Co. in October of 1853.²

The National Academy of Design was founded in 1825 and directed by Asher Brown Durand until 1861.³ Durand was an engraver of watches and silver before opening his own business in 1831. He moved to print engraving book illustrations, portraits of celebrated men, and banknotes. He exhibited his own work of portrait and landscape paintings in various exhibitions at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts from 1826-32. In 1826, with the help of Thomas Seir Cummings, John Frazee, Henry Inman and Samuel F. B. Morse, contemporary artists seeking to change the art establishment of New York, Durand founded the National Academy of Design.⁴

The Rhenish-Belgian Gallery, located in the upstairs galleries of the National Academy of Design, at 663 Broadway was a collection of German and Belgian artists from the Dusseldorf school of painting in Germany. Artists featured in the exhibition of 1853 included Hermann Jaspers, Ludwig Knaus and Theodor Hildebrandt. The entire collection, consisting of 132 works of art, was offered for sale at auction by H. H. Leeds & Co. on October 12th, 1853.⁵

Date Written: April 24, 2020

¹ "National Academy of Design, New York, New York, Oct. 8-10, 1853." *Pre-1877 Art Exhibition Catalogue Index*. Smithsonian Institution Research Information System. Smithsonian American Art Museum. Online.

² Lancour, Harold. "American Art Auction Catalogues 1785-1942 A Union List." *Gallery of Paintings*. The New York Public Library. 1944.

³ "National Academy of Design." <https://www.nationalacademy.org/>.

⁴ "National Academy of Design, New York, New York, Oct. 8-10, 1853."

⁵ Brill, Koninklijk,. "Rhenish-Belgian Gallery of Paintings." *Art Sales Catalogue*. 1853.

Author's initials: AB

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