

Whistler & Company: The Etching Revival

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Expatriate American artist, James Abbot McNeill Whistler (1834 –1903) played an essential role in the etching revival of the 19th and early 20th centuries, and will be featured along with some of his contemporary printmakers in this fascinating exhibition. *Whistler & Company* includes nearly a dozen works by Whistler, whose gritty images of the River Thames, views of Venice, and Parisian scenes revived, at least in part, the art of etching in the 19th century. Works from Whistler's 'Thames Set' and 'French Set' will be featured in the exhibition. Other artists who participated in the etching revival include Francis Seymour Haden, James McBey, Edwin Edwards, David Young Cameron, Muirhead Bone, Mortimer Menpes, Charles Meryon, Maxime Lalanne, Joseph Pennell, and Frank Duveneck, among others.

The etching revival of the second half of the 19th century took hold in France, England and the United States. Artists set out to reestablish etching—the art of incising lines with an etching needle into a thin copper plate which was then inked and pressed into paper with the help of a printing press to create impressions—as an art form that could stand on its own. Inspired by Rembrandt, and the old masters, practitioners created remarkable original and expressive compositions that gained popularity with refined collectors and the broader public.

All of the works in the exhibition are drawn from the Reading Public Museum's permanent collection of works on paper, which numbers more than 10,000.



FAR LEFT, TOP: James Abbott McNeill Whistler (American, 1834 – 1903), *Billingsgate*, 1859, etching. Reading Public Museum, Reading, PA.

FAR LEFT, BOTTOM: Gallery installation at the Reading Public Museum.

MIDDLE: James Abbott McNeill Whistler (American, 1834 – 1903), *Rag Pickers, Quartier Mouffetard, Paris*, 1858, etching and drypoint, Gift, Kathryn M. Klingeman. Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pennsylvania.

NEAR RIGHT, TOP: Louis Auguste Lepère (French, 1849 – 1918), *Souvenir de St. Denis*, 1913, etching, Gift, Edwin DeTurck Bechtel in memory of Dr. Levi W. Mengel. Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pennsylvania.



CONTENTS: 64 framed works; digital object labels; digital introductory and section panels

SIZE: Approximately 165 linear feet

EXHIBITION TOUR: Museum of the Arts and Sciences, Daytona Beach, FL; Knoxville Museum of Art, Knoxville, TN

For exhibition fee and availability, please see enclosed price sheet.