

The Center's Influential English Landscape Art Featured at Sterling Memorial Library

Moving Earth: "Capability" Brown, Humphry Repton, and the Creation of the English Landscape

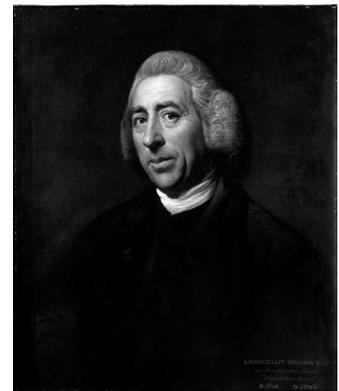
March 7–June 3, 2016

Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University

Curator's talk and opening reception: Friday, April 8, 3 pm



NEW HAVEN—While the Yale Center for British Art is in the process of reinstalling collections in preparation for the building's reopening, the Center's Elizabeth Morris, an independent curator and Assistant Librarian at the Reference Library and Archives, has assembled an exhibition at the Yale University Library that focuses on the origin of the English Landscape aesthetic. Presented in the Memorabilia Room, located in Sterling Memorial Library, *Moving Earth: "Capability" Brown, Humphry Repton, and the Creation of the English Landscape* highlights the significant contributions of Brown and Repton to the legacy of English landscape design. The exhibition contains approximately one hundred objects from the Center—including items from the Reference Library and Archives, and reproductions from the Rare Books and Manuscripts, Prints and Drawings, and Paintings collections.



A prominent eighteenth-century architect, Brown was known for applying comfort and elegance to his clients' land holdings. Once known by many as "England's greatest gardener," he designed over 170 gardens throughout Britain, many of which surrounded the finest estates and country houses. He developed a new method within the English style, "gardenless" designs, which abandoned almost all the remnants of previous formally patterned styles. Croome Court, Blenheim Palace, and Warwick Castle are some of the locations where his work endures. "This year marks the tercentenary of Brown's birth, making the exhibition a timely celebration of Brown's achievements," said Morris.

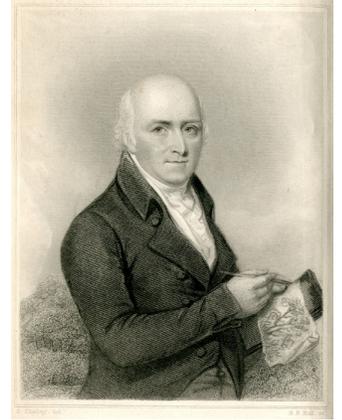
Brown's and Repton's contributions to the Georgian-era landscape aesthetic have grown into a national achievement that identifies the country with strategically planned and well-manicured gardens. "With large sweeping expanses of lush green fields, groupings of trees, winding paths, and serpentine-shaped rivers and lakes, the English landscape appears as an ideal form of nature; it is, however, an expertly crafted construct," wrote Morris in her exhibition statement.



Moving Earth: “Capability” Brown, Humphry Repton, and the Creation of the English Landscape

The exhibition also considers the development of the English landscape by highlighting architects William Kent and Sir John Vanbrugh, as well as acknowledging the “picturesque controversy,” where the criticisms of scholar Richard Payne Knight, author Uvedale Price, and painter William Gilpin questioned the aesthetic principles of the period.

To explore objects and related materials not included in *Moving Earth*, please visit the Yale Center for British Art’s Reference Library and Archives, and Study Room. An appointment is required until the museum reopens in May 2016. Patrons should e-mail or call each department directly to schedule a time to visit. For exhibition hours at Sterling Memorial Library, see web.library.yale.edu/buildings (scroll down to Memorabilia Room, under “Sterling Library”) or contact Amanda Patrick, Director of Communications, Yale University Library (+1 203 432 4484; amanda.patrick@yale.edu).



CREDITS

Moving Earth: “Capability” Brown, Humphry Repton, and the Creation of the English Landscape has been organized by the Sterling Memorial Library and curated by Elizabeth Morris, independent curator and Assistant Librarian at the Reference Library and Archives at the Yale Center for British Art. This exhibition is sponsored by the Sterling Memorial Library exhibits committee, which is managed by Jae Rossman, Associate Director for Library Operations & Public Programs, Haas Family Arts Library; and Kerri Sancomb, Exhibits Program Manager, YUL Conservation & Exhibit Services.

YALE CENTER FOR BRITISH ART

The Yale Center for British Art houses the largest collection of British art outside the United Kingdom. Presented to the university by Paul Mellon (Yale College, Class of 1929), the collection reflects the development of British art and culture from the Elizabethan period onward. The Center’s collections include more than 2,000 paintings, 200 sculptures, 20,000 drawings and watercolors, 30,000 prints, and 35,000 rare books and manuscripts. More than 30,000 volumes supporting research in British art and related fields are available in the Center’s library. Visit the institution online at britishart.yale.edu.



#

CONTACTS:

Betsy Kim: +1 203 432 2853 | betsy.kim@yale.edu

Ronnie Rysz: +1 203 436 3429 | ronnie.rysz@yale.edu

Images: Unknown artist, *A Country House in a River Landscape, Previously Identified as Oatlands* (detail), ca. 1805, oil on canvas, Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection; Nathaniel Dance-Holland, *Portrait of Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown*, 1773, Jennings Albums, Reference Library and Archives, Yale Center for British Art; William Taverner, *Classical Landscape*, ca. 1760, oil on canvas, Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Fund; Portrait of Humphry Repton from *The landscape gardening and landscape architecture of the late Humphry Repton, esq.: being his entire works on these subjects*, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Yale Center for British Art; Yale Center for British Art, photo by Richard Caspole.