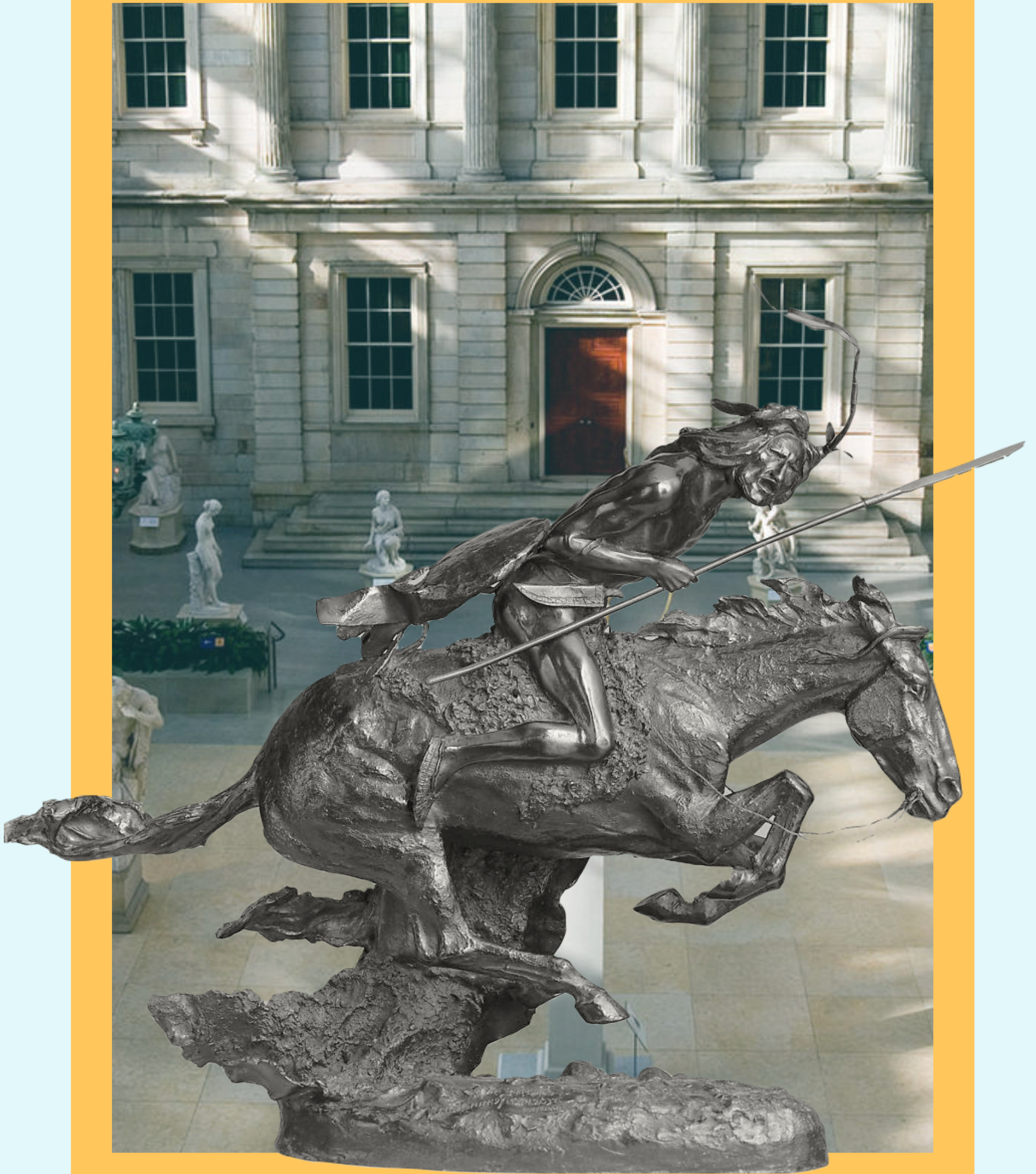


THE AMERICAN WING



Lots going on here. Firstly, while we don't know exactly who the artist was, it's very possible that The Hunting Party—New Jersey, which dates to ca. 1750, is the oldest painting in The American Wing. Before coming to the museum, it hung above the fireplace in a New Jersey farm house for almost two hundred years.

I've also included both a sculpture and a painting by Frederick Remington, who was one of the most important painters of the American West. As you can imagine, most, if not all of his work, includes horses to some degree. One of his great-grandfathers was a saddle maker, and the entire family were excellent riders. Looking at The Cheyenne from 1901, the horse is at a full gallop, which the artist called "burning the air." (Interesting here to compare to the Degas' figurines in Gallery 814!) Though done only a year earlier, the energy of A Reconnaissance is very different. It's part of a series of works called 'nocturnes', which are moody paintings which use darkness as an essential element to structure and permeate the composition (a style most famously developed by James Abbott McNeill Whistler a few decades before).

From another unknown artist, Portrait of a Gentleman in a Carriage is so elegant I had to include it! Though I'm not sure the horse's gait is actually true to life— let's weigh in on this. Personally I think he's too low to the ground for his knees to bend that much. George Stubbs would never.

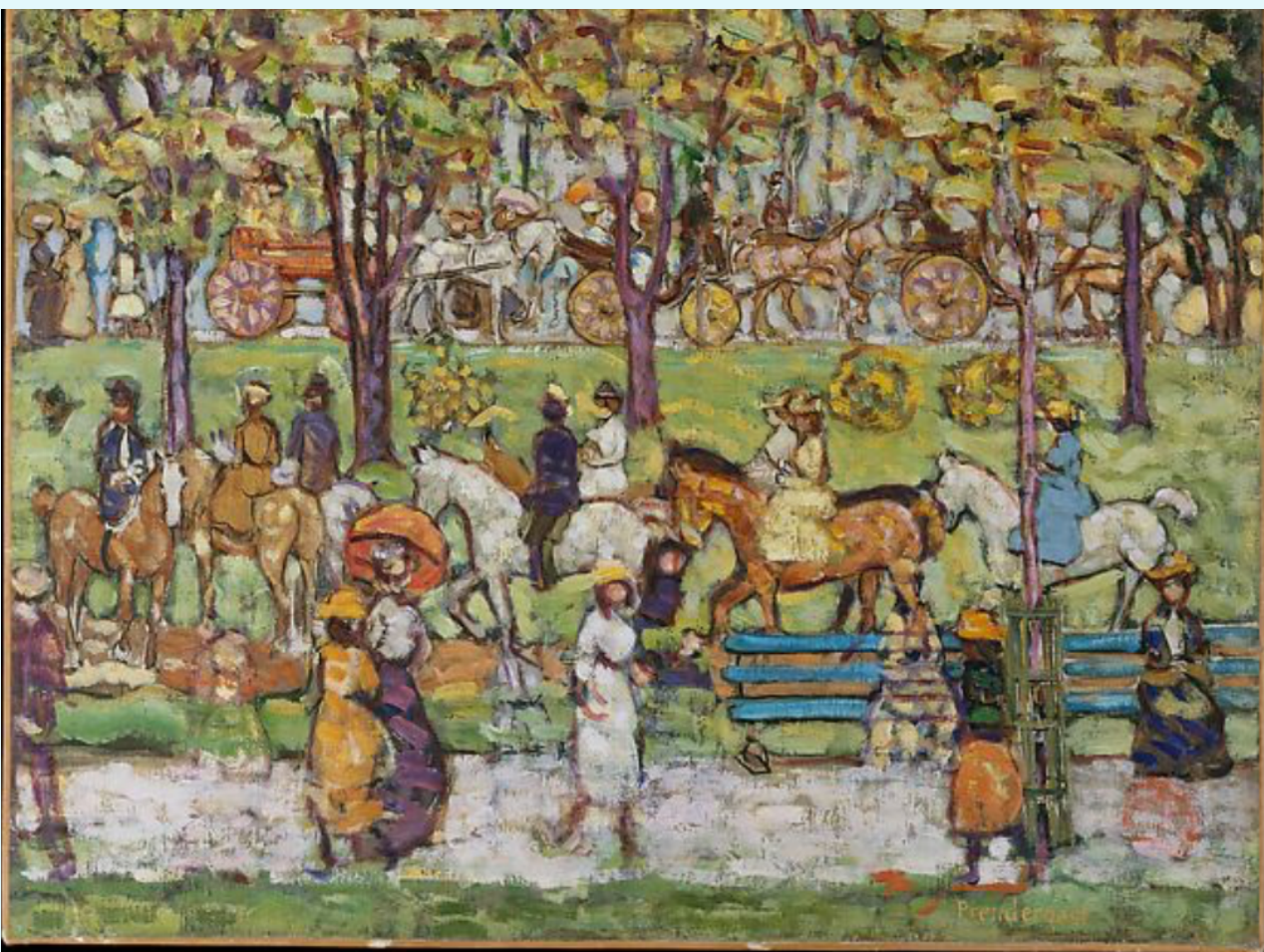
Charles Schreyvogel's My Bunkie was based on an actual account of a skirmish told to the artist by a veteran frontier trooper he met in Colorado. Apparently, a soldier lost his mount and was carried to safety by his comrade, while two others covered for them against the fire of some Native Americans, who are presumably just out of view.

Finally, my favorite, Maurice Prendergast's colorful depiction of Central Park. Deeply inspired by both the Fauves (Matisse, Derain, Vlaminck, Van Dongen, etc.), as well as by Paul Cézanne (the father of modern European painting— the Post-Impressionists, the Fauves, and the Cubists cited him as instrumental in the development of their methodologies and styles), Prendergast trained in Paris but was one of America's most important artists at this time. This small oil painting is almost like a Medieval tapestry in its composition, but its color and painterly strokes (i.e. you can see them) are distinctly modern. Love!



1

2



3



4



5



6

1

Title: The Hunting Party—New Jersey

Date: ca. 1750

Culture: American

Medium: Oil on canvas

Accession Number: 1979.299

On View: Gallery 714

2

Title: Portrait of a Gentleman in a Carriage

Date: ca. 1850–60

Culture: American

Medium: Oil on canvas

Accession Number: 1973.323.1

On View: Gallery 774

3

Title: Central Park

Artist: Maurice Brazil Prendergast

**(American, St. John's, Newfoundland
1858–1924 New York)**

Date: ca. 1914–15

Medium: Oil on canvas

Accession Number: 50.25

On View: Gallery 772

4

Title: A Reconnaissance
Artist: Frederic Remington
(American, Canton, New York
1861–1909 Ridgefield, Connecticut)
Date: 1902
Medium: Oil on canvas
Accession Number: 2019.438
On View: Gallery 765

5

Title: My Bunkie
Artist: Charles Schreyvogel (1861–1912)
Date: finished 1899
Medium: Oil on canvas
Accession Number: 12.227
On View: Gallery 765

6

Title: The Cheyenne
Artist: Frederic Remington
(American, Canton, New York
1861–1909 Ridgefield, Connecticut)
Date: 1901, cast by March 1907
Medium: Bronze
Accession Number: 07.80
On View: Gallery 774