BRITISH ART STUDIES

Issue 2 – April 2016 – December 2022

John Singleton Copley and the World of Prints

One Object conversation between Jules PrownOne Object and Mark Hallett



John Singleton Copley (1738–1815) is known for his painted portraits of colonial Americans (oils, pastels, and miniatures) and his English history pictures, but the relationship between Copley and prints is relatively obscure. Yet he was involved with prints throughout his career and beyond, from his earliest exposure to art in the Boston studio of his stepfather to the sale four years after his death of his collection of around 1,125 prints by and after old master and contemporary artists, and many engravings after his own paintings.



Figure 1

Graphic Encounters: John Singleton Copley and the World of Prints. A conversation between Jules Prown and Mark Hallett. Film produced by Jonathan Law.

About the authors

Jules David Prown, a graduate of Lafayette College and of the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture (University of Delaware), received his doctorate from Harvard University. He has been a member of the faculty of the Department of the History of Art at Yale University since 1961 and is currently the Paul Mellon Professor Emeritus of the History of Art. During this period he has also been Curator of American Art at the Yale University Art Gallery and the founding Director of the Yale Center for British Art. He has received numerous professional and other honours including the Distinguished Teaching of Art History Award from the College Art Association of America (1995), Yale's William Clyde DeVane Award for teaching and scholarship, and Distinguished Scholar at the 2010 College Art Association Annual Conference.

Mark Hallett is Director of Studies at the Paul Mellon Centre. He is the author and editor of many books on British art, and has been involved in curating numerous exhibitions. He was the co-curator, with his colleague Sarah Victoria Turner, of the 2018 Royal Academy exhibition, *The Great Spectacle: The Royal Academy and its Summer Exhibitions 1769–2018*, and co-authored the accompanying catalogue. He is the curator of the exhibition *George Shaw: A Corner of a Foreign Field*, which is on display at the Yale Center for British Art until the end of 2018, and which will travel to the Holburne Museum, Bath, in February 2019.

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Author	Jules Prown Mark Hallett
Date	1 December 2022
Category	One Object
Review status	Peer Reviewed (Editorial Group)
License	Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0)
Downloads	PDF format
Article DOI	https://doi.org/10.17658/issn.2058-5462/issue-02/jprown
Cite as	Prown, Jules, and Mark Hallett. "John Singleton Copley and the World of Prints." In <i>British Art Studies</i> . London and New Haven: Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art and Yale Center for British Art, 2022. https://britishartstudies-02.netlify.app/copley-prints/.

Imprint