

Museum Activity: Shifting Seasons

About the Artist

Artists in the New Hope Art Colony took refuge in the Bucks County countryside, attracted by the beauty of the landscape and the idea that they could make a living from the land and be free to work creatively. As a portraitist and landscape painter, Rae Sloan Bredin incorporated figures into his landscapes, making his work unlike the other New Hope impressionists. Bredin's work included women and children arranged in warm, amiable groups and arrayed in delicate colors. They were often set against the serene Delaware River Valley backdrop and placed in quiet interior settings.



IMAGE CREDIT: Rae Sloan Bredin (1880-1933), *After the Rain*, c.1913, oil on canvas, H. 30x W. 40 inches, James A. Michener Art Museum, Museum purchase funded by the Janus Society, the Beveridge Moore and Henry Morof Trust, and John C. Seegers.

Looking Questions

What do you see in this painting? Describe all its details.

What season is it in the painting? How can you tell?

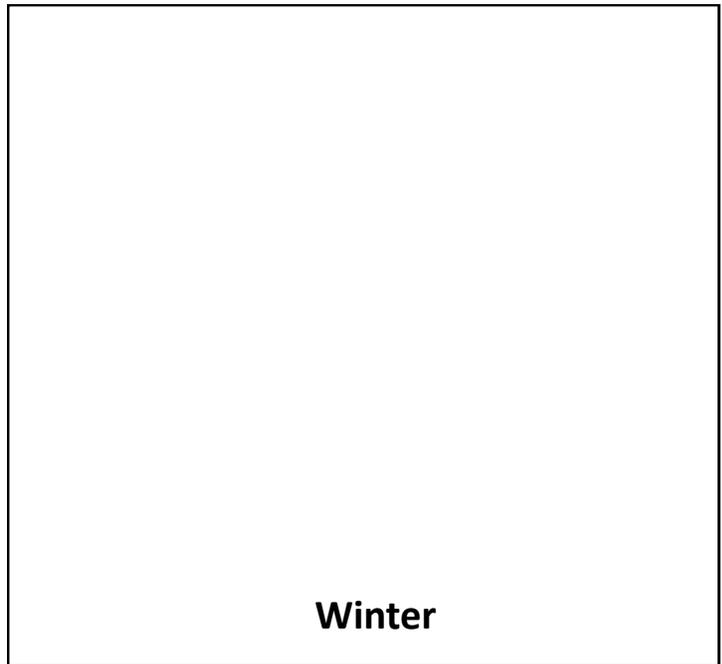
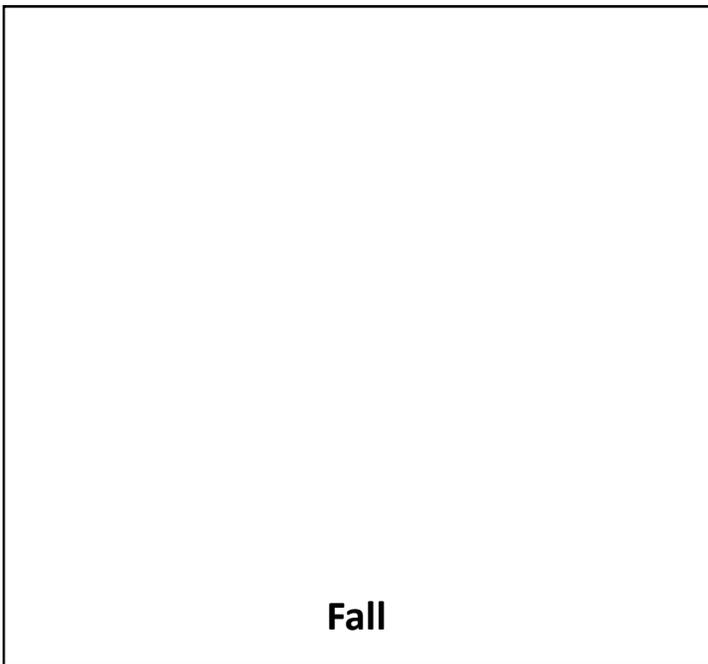
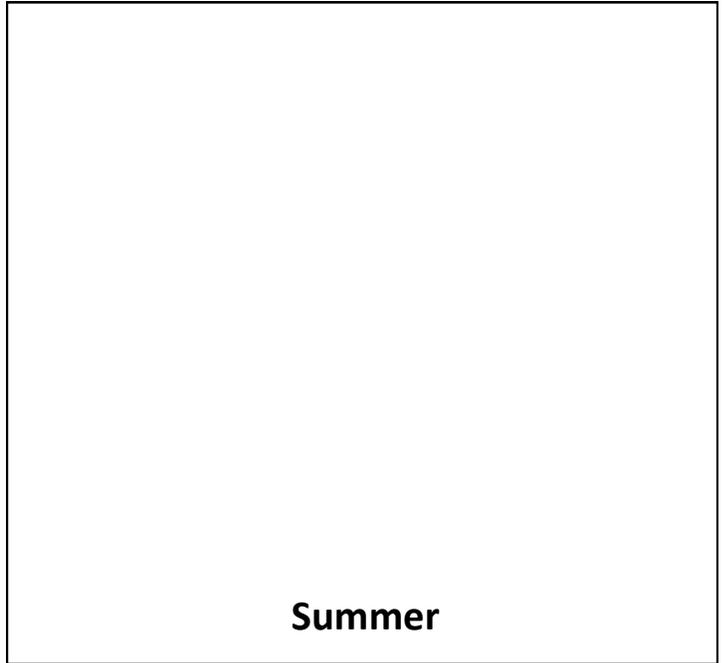
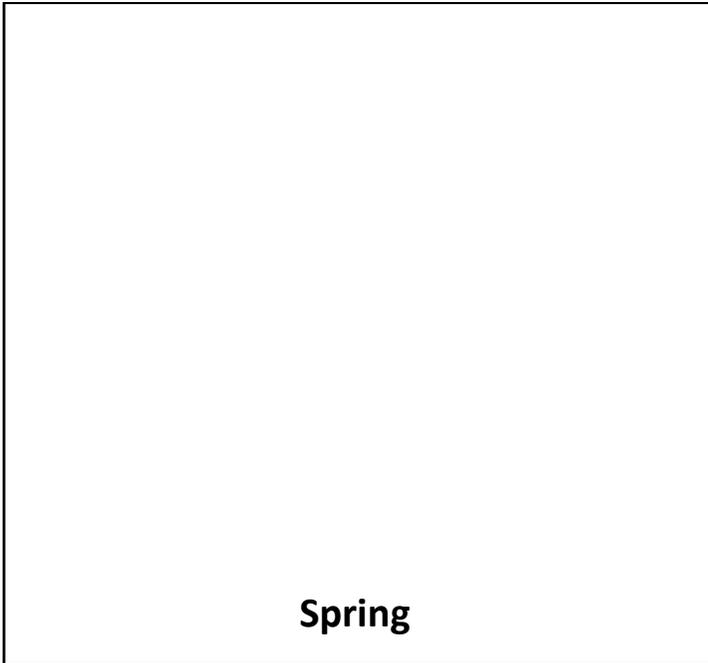
Where do you think this is a painting of? What is the setting?

How does the painting show light? Where are the reflections? Where are the shadows?

What is the mood of the painting? What elements help create this mood?

Same Setting, Different Seasons

The New Hope impressionists often painted *en plein air*, working outdoors in the environment that they were trying to capture in their art. While other artists from the group, such as Fern Coppedge preferred winter scenes, Bredin was known for his paintings of spring and summer. Draw a landscape below and how it might look in different seasons. What do you notice?



Compare and Contrast

How do Rae Sloan Bredin's landscapes look in comparison to the other impressionist landscapes you find in the galleries? What is the same? What is different?

Download a copy of this activity on *Learn with the Michener*:
www.LearnMichener.org

