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## THE BMA PRESENTS RARELY SHOWN BRITISH LANDSCAPES

BALTIMORE, MD (July 24, 2008)—Majestic settings of the English countryside have inspired writers and artists from the poetry of William Wordsworth to the paintings of J.M.W. Turner. This fall, the BMA focuses on the transforming British landscape in **Taking in the View: English Watercolors and Prints**. On view **August 27 to December 7, 2008**, this one-gallery exhibition features an array of more than 20 prints, watercolors, and books drawn from the Museum's collection.

The exhibition highlights one of the Museum's masterpieces, J.M.W. Turner's *Grenoble Bridge*, a watercolor that was purchased in 1968 and has rarely been shown due to its fragility. In addition, several recent acquisitions are on view for the first time, including watercolors by professional animalier Robert Hills, amateur artist and surgeon John White Abbott, and Victorian artist Louise Rayner.



Joseph Mallord William Turner. *Grenoble Bridge*. (c. 1824). The Baltimore Museum of Art: Purchase with exchange funds from Nelson and Juanita Greif Gutman Collection. BMA 1968.28

In mid 18th-century Britain, landscape painting fell into two categories: views of specific topography and fictional visions of idealized landscapes. Over the course of the next 100 years, these two concepts merged, and in watercolor painting in particular, images of the landscape were brought to unprecedented heights of beauty and expressive power. This transformation of the idea of nature as the ideal expression of the human spirit existed not only in art, but also extended to philosophy and literature.

### ABOUT THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914 with a single painting, the BMA today has 90,000 works of art—including the largest holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world. Throughout the Museum, visitors will find an outstanding selection of European and American fine and decorative arts, 15th- through 19th-century prints and drawings, works by established and emerging contemporary artists, and objects from

—more—

Africa, Asia, the Ancient Americas, and Pacific Islands. Two beautifully landscaped gardens display an array of 20th-century sculpture that is an oasis in the city. As a major cultural destination for the greater Baltimore region, the BMA organizes and presents a variety of dynamic exhibitions and innovative programs throughout the year, and frequently hosts special events with cultural and educational partners. The Museum is located in a park-like setting in the heart of Charles Village and adjacent to the main campus of The Johns Hopkins University. It is distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope with an impressive wing for contemporary art added in 1994.

**VISITOR INFORMATION**

General admission to the BMA is free. Special events and exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m.– 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. The Museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located on Art Museum Drive at North Charles and 31st Streets, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general Museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit [artbma.org](http://artbma.org).

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