
Jongkind, Johan Barthold

(b Latrop, June 3, 1819; d La-Côte-Saint-André, Feb 9, 1891).

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<https://doi.org/10.1093/gao/9781884446054.article.T045131>

Published online: 2003

Dutch painter and printmaker. After training and working briefly as a notary's clerk, he studied from 1836 at the Academie voor Beeldende Kunsten in The Hague, where he befriended Charles Rochussen and was especially influenced in his watercolour technique by the work of the Director, Andreas Schelfhout. Among his early wash drawings, *Embarkation* (1844; The Hague, Gemeentemus.) provides evidence of a developed sense of this medium. In 1854, in response to a request from Comte Emilien de Nieuwerkerke, Schelfhout proposed Jongkind as a young Dutch artist who might profit from going to Paris to study in the studio of Eugène Isabey; Jongkind therefore accompanied Nieuwerkerke to Paris and was based there for the next ten years. His work during this period embraced oil painting of a sometimes markedly traditional Dutch character, as in *Winter Scene* (1846; The Hague, Gemeentemus.), and detailed and sharply observant watercolours of streets and squares in Paris, such as the view of the *Barrière Monceau* (c. 1851; The Hague, Gemeentemus.). Jongkind also made sketching trips away from Paris, especially during the early 1850s, returning to Dutch settings to paint, and also sketching frequently on the coasts of Brittany and Normandy, where the strong Atlantic light prompted some of his best watercolour work up to that point (e.g. *Etretat*, c. 1851; Paris, Louvre).

By 1854 Jongkind had lost his sense of momentum and succumbed to severe depression. Unable to cope, he returned to the Netherlands in 1855 and was based there until 1860, living in relative isolation, although in 1857 he travelled to Paris, where he met Gustave Courbet. This period of rethinking and concentration proved beneficial; his subsequent watercolours in particular are marked by clear advances both in bold and satisfying composition and in the use of more dramatic light and shade, seen for example in *Quay in Rotterdam* (1857) and *Barge on the Canal* (1860; both Paris, Louvre). In 1860 a group of friends, including Corot, arranged a sale of paintings, the proceeds of which provided funds to enable Jongkind to return to Paris. At the same time Jongkind set up an arrangement with the Paris dealer Firmin Martin, and he met Mme Fesser, with whom he was to be closely involved for the rest of his life. He settled again in Paris in 1861, continuing to travel to the Netherlands each summer until 1869, but from this point on he was more closely allied to Parisian art life; he exhibited at the Salon des Refusés and knew Boudin, Monet and other French painters.



Johan Barthold Jongkind: Honfleur, oil on canvas, 20 1/2 x 32 1/8 in. (52.1 x 81.6 cm), 1865 (New York, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Collection, Wolfe Fund, 1916, Accession ID: 16.39); photo © The Metropolitan Museum of Art <http://www.metmuseum.org/Collections/search-the-collections/110001229>

In 1862 Jongkind started to produce etchings; a series of six, *Vues de Hollande*, was issued that year. He frequently returned, in this medium, to the Dutch subject-matter for which there was a ready market. In his watercolours, however, he recorded a wide range of responses to his new surroundings, from the amusing and intimate sketch of himself with Mme Fesser and her son Jules, *Promenade at Clamart* (1861; Paris, Louvre), to the uncharacteristically detailed and realistic watercolour of *Bateaux Lavoirs by the Pont Notre-Dame* (1868; Paris, Louvre) and the sweeping, oblique view and sombre, subtle colouring of the *Bank of the Seine in Paris* (1868; Rotterdam, Boymans-van Beuningen). Jongkind also painted in the countryside around Paris, responding especially well to the play of light on land and water (see fig.), as in the watercolour the *Seine at Argenteuil* (1869; Paris, Louvre).

From 1870 Jongkind spent his summers further from Paris, until 1879 in and near Grenoble and Lyon and thereafter in the south of France; from 1881 he lived at Côte-Saint-André in a house acquired by Mme Fesser's son. In these years there were further developments in his watercolour technique. In *Landscape in the Dauphiné* (1878; The Hague, Gemeentemus.) he achieved a lyrical rendering of mood with bold use of dark and light patches of sky and land and effective silhouetted features. In *At Côte-Saint-André* (1883; The Hague, Gemeentemus.) he used an energetic Impressionist technique to create a sense of the sun-drenched setting. Finally, in the strikingly free moonlit view, *La Côte-Saint-André* (1885; Otterlo, Kröller-Müller), the play of light and shadow as the moon is obscured by clouds is captured with a remarkably free and vigorous brushstroke.

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See also

Netherlands, the, §iii, 6(i): Painting and graphic arts, c 1800-c 1850

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Jongkind, Johan or Jean Barthold <<http://oxfordartonline.com/benezit/view/10.1093/benz/9780199773787.001.0001/acref-9780199773787-e-00095677>> in Oxford Art Online <<http://oxfordartonline.com>>

External resources

Jongkind, Johan Barthold: *Cart on the Beach at Etretat, 1862*, National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC) <<http://www.nga.gov/cgi-bin/pinfo?Object=60502+0+none>>

Jongkind, Johan Barthold: *Honfleur, 1865*, Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York) <<http://www.metmuseum.org/Collections/search-the-collections/110001229>>

Jongkind, Johan Barthold: *The Boulevard de Port-Royal, Paris, 1877*, National Gallery (London) <<http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/cgi-bin/WebObjects.dll/CollectionPublisher.woa/wa/work?workNumber=NG6529>>

Jongkind, Johan Barthold: *River Scene, 1860-80*, National Gallery (London) <<http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/cgi-bin/WebObjects.dll/CollectionPublisher.woa/wa/work?workNumber=NG4583>>

Jongkind, Johan Barthold: *Landscape from Lake Lemman to Nyon, 1875*, Minneapolis Institute of Arts (Minneapolis, MN) <<http://collections.artsmia.org/art/1545>>

Jongkind, Johan Barthold: *The Seine at Bas-Meudon, 1865*, Cleveland Museum of Art (Cleveland, OH) <<http://www.clevelandart.org/art/1993.236>>

Jongkind, Johan Barthold: *Road Leading into a Village, c. 1855*, Detroit Institute of Arts (Detroit, MI) <http://www.dia.org/the_collection/overview/viewobject.asp?objectid=50275>

Jongkind, Johan Barthold: *Boats on a River, 1885*, Detroit Institute of Arts (Detroit, MI) <http://www.dia.org/the_collection/overview/viewobject.asp?objectid=50270>

Jongkind, Johan Barthold: *The Jetty of Honfleur, 1865*, Rijksmuseum Vincent van Gogh (Amsterdam) <<http://www3.vangoghmuseum.nl/vgm/index.jsp?page=4200&collection=454&lang=en>>

