



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

American art: its awful altitude;
a satire. Edited by William Coyle

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	American art: its awful altitude; a satire. Edited by William Coyle
Identifier:	AAA.franjohn2
Date:	1864
Creator:	Frankenstein, John
Extent:	xxii, 136 p. (illus.; 20 cm.)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel CO3 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Biographical / Historical

John P. Frankenstein emigrated from Germany to Cincinnati, Ohio, with his family of artists when he was fifteen years old. Entirely self-taught, he was encouraged by local sculptor Hiram Powers to pursue a career in art. Frankenstein soon became a professional portrait painter and sculptor and spent much of his career working in Cincinnati, Philadelphia, and New York. After losing some important patronage later in his career, and unable to achieve critical and financial success, he became bitter and resentful of the art world.

Scope and Contents

Reprint of the 1864 poem by John P. Frankenstein, *American Art: Its Awful Altitude*, a 112-page poem in which he criticized successful American artists, patrons, and critics by name. After the Civil War, he settled permanently in New York City, where he spent the remainder of his life as a recluse.

Publication, Distribution, Etc. (Imprint)

Cincinnati, Ohio, 1864

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Art, American

Names:

Coyle, William