

# ARTIST OF THE MONTH DECEMBER 2024

Artist of the month is a competition that runs in school. Each month we look at a different artist and their work, children can then respond to this artist by either creating a picture, taking a photograph, writing a story, doing some research or a different response that inspires them. Mrs Britten our Art and Design subject lead shares the artist of the month via the school art notice board. The artist of the month winner will be announced at the end of each month.

To enter you need to respond to the artist however you choose. Put your entry into the 'Artist of the Month' basket next to the art gallery display or email it to [enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk) with the title 'Artist of the Month'. Please enter by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

This month's artist is: **George Henry Durrie**



**'Winter in the Country' (1858)**



**'Winter in the Country' (1859)**



**'Sledding' (1851)**

George Henry Durrie (1820-1863)

George Henry Durrie was an American landscape artist noted especially for his rural winter snow scenes. George Durrie was part of a large family; he was one of six children. Both he and his brother

John studied to be artists. After completing his lessons, Durrie worked on bank note engraving, and painting portraits and miniatures. The artist came from a religious family and was deeply religious himself, attending church each week; he sang in the church choir, and played musical instruments.

He spent the first half of his life as a portrait painter. Landscapes, which had first appeared as backgrounds in his portraits, became his main interest. While he painted these in all seasons, most of his landscapes were of winter scenes.

He lived and painted during The Industrial Revolution, during this period, modern industry created a lot of anxiety within people, and many wanted images as souvenirs for a simpler time. Which is one of the reasons why Durrie's work became so popular.

Winter scenes were not as common as scenes painted in other seasons for the practical difficulty of working outdoors in the cold. But Durrie excelled in winter scenes, and made many pictures of sleighing, cider making, getting ice, and other aspects of farm life.

**Find out more about George Henry Durrie by following the link below to take you to the National Art Gallery.** Or scan the QR code to take you to the National Gallery to enjoy Winter Art Favourites in the gallery with hundreds of winter scenes by different artists.

<https://www.nga.gov/stories/enjoy-winter-art-favorites-national-gallery.html>



Or scan the QR code below to take you to a visual gallery of paintings by George Henry Durrie in a short YouTube video. **Remember** to ask a grown-up to watch with you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apJdn9tY0yM>



**Your turn George Henry Durrie enjoyed painting winter scenes of the countryside.**

Why not create your own winter painting inspired by his landscapes or one of the other artists in the Artist of the Month inspiration book. Will we get snow in the Christmas holidays to inspire you?