

238 Putnam Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139-3767
August 25, 2008

Ms. Sarah Cash
Bechhoefer Curator of American Art
Corcoran Gallery of Art
500 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ms. Cash:

I support your decision to deaccession your Eastman Johnson, Child with Rabbits, 1878. It is a charming work, however, the Corcoran Gallery of Art has a strong ensemble of Eastman Johnson paintings without Child with Rabbits.

Your Girl with Pets represents Johnson's work of the 1850s. The Truants (also called The Shelter) represents his rural scenes of the 1860s, when he focused on the spring maple sugar harvest in Maine. The Toilet (also called The Earring) is a beautiful interior scene from 1873, one of my favorite paintings in your collection. And the portrait Harriet Hubbard Ayer, 1881, shows Johnson at his best in portraiture. Hence, your collection represents four decades of Johnson's work.

As to the portrait of Harold McGuffey: It is not a sterling example of Johnson's portraiture. He did many such portraits of children, and although they do have some appeal (beautiful painting) they are not major works.

If you have further questions, do not hesitate to telephone.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia Hills
Professor of Art History
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