

**Patricia Hills**  
**60 Plaza Street East, #1H**  
**Brooklyn, NY 11238**

April 11, 2017

Elizabeth Goodridge  
Junior Specialist/American Art  
Bonhams  
580 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Ms. Goodridge:

Re: Eastman Johnson, *Crossing a Stream*, signed (very faint), "E. Johnson 1866". Oil on canvas on board, 21 1/8 x 17 inches. Alternate title: "Pig-A-Back".

I viewed this painting for the first time at Bonham's on April 5, 2017. In my opinion the work is by the American genre and portrait painter Eastman Johnson (1824-1906), and I plan to include the work in my catalogue raisonné of the artist's work.

The work is related to (at least) two other paintings of figures by a stream: *Boy Fishing*, oil on canvas, 9 1/8 x 7 1/2 inches, Cleveland Museum of Art; and *Gathering Lilies*, 1865, Oil on board, 18 1/2 x 15 1/4 inches, National Gallery of Art. *Gathering Lilies* is a new title; I exhibited this work as *Woman Picking Waterlilies* in my Eastman Johnson exhibition at the Whitney in 1972

The painting at Bonham's is beautifully executed with a combination of techniques typical of Johnson. There is the wonderful translucency of the water in the pond with the reflection of the girl and young boy delicately delineated in the water. The green paint representing the vegetation of plants and moss on the hill has been delicately scumbled to indicate sunshine coming through the trees. One also perceives the darkened shadows throughout the trees in the background. The features of the girl are indistinct, which is quite typical, although the boy's features are more strongly delineated. As we saw when we used the UV light, there has been minor inpainting.

What is interesting to me is the fact that at the end of the war, he painted such intimate and peaceful paintings. They are a contrast to other conflict-related paintings, such as *Fiddling His Way*.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia Hills, PhD  
Director, Eastman Johnson  
Catalogue Raisonné Project

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