



Grafton Tyler Brown, *Lower Falls and Grand Canyon of Yellowstone, from Hayden Point*

Grafton Tyler Brown (American, 1841–1918) was the first African American artist to professionally depict landscapes of the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Northwest in the nineteenth century. *Lower Falls and Grand Canyon of Yellowstone, from Hayden Point*, an oil on canvas painted around 1890, is the first work by this trailblazing artist of color to enter Joslyn's collection. This important picture illustrates the significant, yet overlooked, role of Black artists in producing imagery that defined the American West. It will join the Museum's renowned collection of nineteenth-century landscape pictures and be displayed alongside the likes of Thomas Moran and Albert Bierstadt.

Here, Brown emphasizes the grandeur of the space. His loose brushstrokes highlight the striking colors and ruggedness of the terrain. The blue, green, and white tones of the waterfall contrast with the ochre and pink of the rocky formations. The picture reflects Brown's familiarity with the site of Yellowstone, Wyoming, which he visited twice in 1886 and 1889. There, he catered to a booming tourist market. The paintings he produced could be purchased by visitors as souvenirs of their memorable trip to the country's first national park. Over his long career, Brown depicted an array of regions less familiar to his mostly urban patrons. In the 1880s, after twenty years in the printing business in San Francisco, he became an itinerant painter through British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and Montana. His views of sublime peaks, cascades, lakes, and geysers were especially sought after by enraptured customers back on the East Coast.

Grafton Tyler Brown (American, 1841–1918), *Lower Falls and Grand Canyon of Yellowstone, from Hayden Point*, 1890, oil on canvas, 21 1/4 x 14 1/4 in., Museum purchase, 2022.9