## Ruskin at 200: The Art Critic as Word-Painter





## JOHN RUSKIN 1819-1900

--art critic, social thinker, watercolourist, art patron, philanthropist, teacher...

-- writer on travel, geology, architecture, ornithology, mineralogy, political economy, environment...

-- founder of the Guild of St George, founder of the Ruskin School of Fine Art (Oxford)

-- an inspiration for Arts and Crafts movement; the National Trust; Christian socialism; British Labour Party

Ruskin's Bedroom at Brantwood: photograph 1890s (inset) John Ruskin in his 70s: photo F.Hollyer, 1894

Ruskin's Bedroom at Brantwood: photograph 1890s (inset) John Ruskin in his 70s: photo F.Hollyer, 1894



James Northcote, Portrait of John Ruskin at the age of three and a half (1822)



Ruskin's home (1823--)

## Watercolours by John Ruskin













Claude Lorrain, The Mill, or The Marriage of Isaac and Rebecca (1648)



Thomas Cole, Roman Campagna (1843)

Holman Hunt, *The Awakening Conscience* (1853-54)



That furniture, so carefully painted, even to the last vein of the rosewood–is there nothing to be learned from that terrible lustre of it, from its fatal newness...?



...the gilded tapestry, with the fowls of the air feeding on the ripened corn...

...we think how soon the pure whiteness may be soiled with dust and rain, her outcast foot failing in the street...





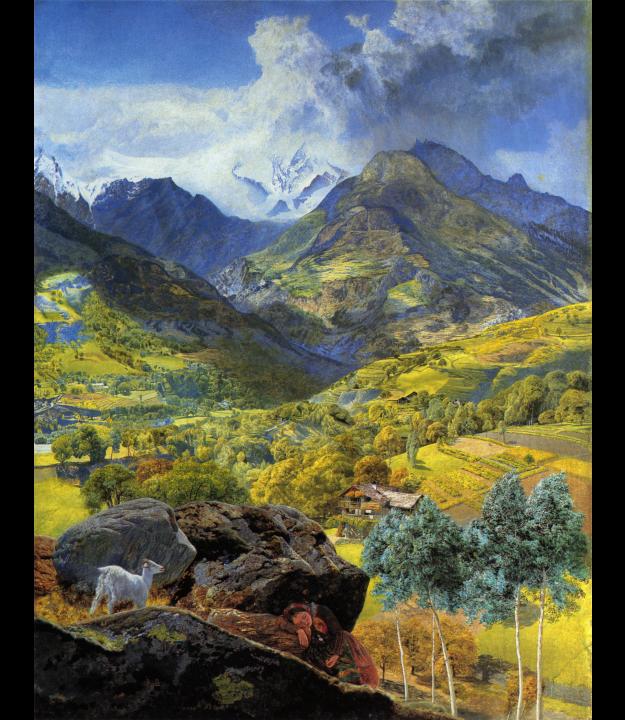
J.M.W.Turner, Slavers throwing overboard the Dead and Dying – Typhon coming on (1840)

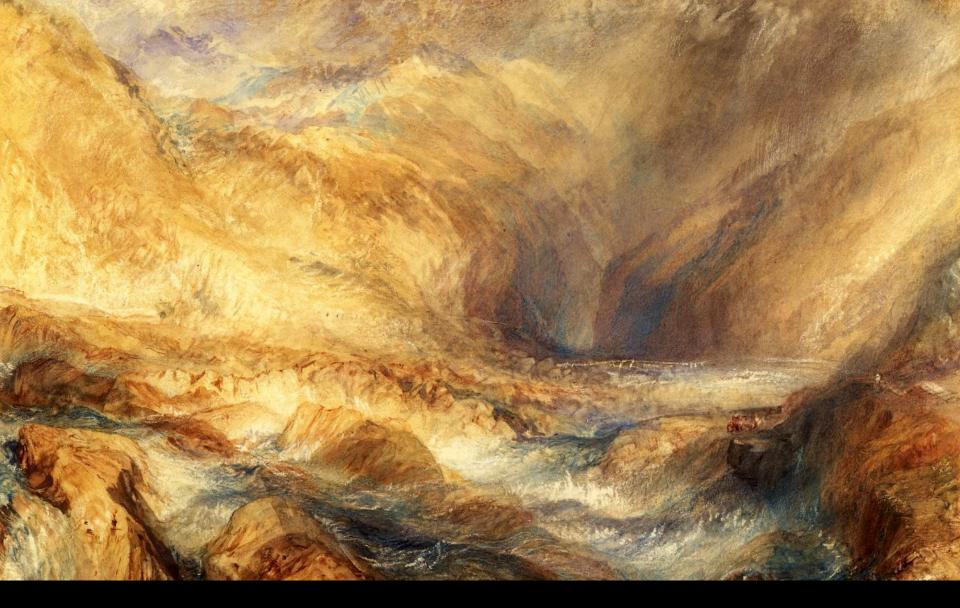


Giacomo Zaganelli, Grand Tourismo: Uffizi Gallery, Florence (2018-19)



John Brett, *Val d'Aosta* (1859)

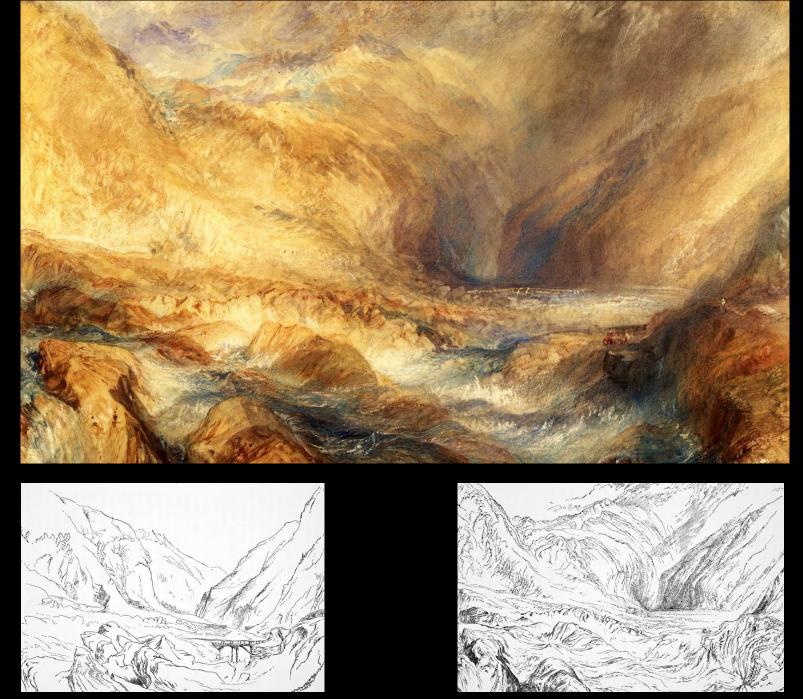




J.M.W.Turner, The Pass of St Gotthard, near Faido (1843)



John Ruskin, The Pass of Faido on the St Gotthard (1845)



John Ruskin, (left) 'Pass of Faido (1<sup>st</sup> Simple Topography)'; (right)' Pass of Faido (2<sup>nd</sup> Turnerian Topography)'. *Modern Painters*, Vol.4.

