Constable: Flatford Mill and the River Stour

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Lecture summary:

Constable chose to paint, in his own words: “The sound of water escaping from mill dams, willows, old rotten planks, slimy posts and brickworks”. He wrote: “As long as I do paint I shall never cease to paint such Places”. He painted what he knew best – and what he knew best was the Stour Valley in Suffolk County.

Constable had an approach to painting that encompassed both the divine in Nature and the scientific so that for him it became an all embracing vision. No landscape or part of it was beneath regard.

Slide list: all images by John Constable

1. The Stour Valley and Dedham Church (1815) Oil on Canvas. Museum Fine Arts Boston
7. Flatford Mill from a Lock on the Stour (c.1811) Oil on paper laid on canvas. RAA, Lon.
9. The Mill Stream (circa 1810) Oil on board. Tate.
14. *Golding Constable* (1815) oil on canvas. Tate.
15. *Flatford Mill ('Scene on a Navigable River')* 1816-17. Oil on canvas. Tate.
16. *Study for 'Flatford Mill' (c. 1816)* Drawing on paper.
18. *The White Horse Sketch* . Oil on canvas. NGA Washington DC.
21. *Study of Cumulus clouds* (1822)
22. *Study of Cirrus clouds* (1822)
23. *Cloud study, Hampstead, trees at right* 11 September 1821
24. *Cloud study, horizon of trees* 27 September 1821
25. *Flatford Lock from the Mill House* (1814)
28. *The Valley Farm* (1835) Oil on canvas. Tate.

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