

Tonalism: The Tonalists sought to capture the old-fashioned qualities of the region, the quiet forest interiors and time-worn small farms, using earthy tones of browns, golds and muted greens. Tonalism is characterized by subdued and poetic landscapes that were rich with mood and sentiment. Twilight and dusk were favored times of day for the Tonalists, as were more atmospheric conditions of fog, mist, and rain. They painted dimly lit woods and rural settings, and finished them with a layer of toned varnish.

American Impressionism: American Impressionism, like its European inspiration, featured bright colors and painterly, broken brushstrokes that sought to capture the fleeting emotion, or “impression” of a scene. Unlike their French paintings, however, the subjects did not derive from the modernity of urban Paris but rather presented a fresh look at rural New England. They often layered thick brushstrokes of paint upon the canvas to suggest the light hitting their subject, enhancing the color and form. Inspired by Japanese prints and black and white photography, their compositions incorporated areas of flat color and pattern with abrupt cropping, slight blurring of edges, and intriguing juxtapositions.