

John George Brown (British-American, 1831-1913)

Swinging on the Gate, ca. 1878-79

Oil

**Acquired with Funds Provided by the Horace G. Fralin
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Genre painter John George Brown, known as J. G., was born in Durham, England and took drawing classes as a young man at the School of Design at Newcastle-on-Tyne while also being apprenticed as a glass worker. In 1853, Brown immigrated to America and established a studio in New York where he began to be known as a portrait painter. Brown enjoyed success as a genre painter, mainly for his warmhearted depictions of young street urchins and impoverished children.

"Swinging on the Gate is probably my favorite painting in the permanent collection because it always makes me smile. John George Brown captures this little girl's vitality, exuberance and spontaneity so well. Additionally, the artist depicts a very confident girl in a time when our country was undergoing great social change and hardship, which I have to think, makes this picture unusual for one painted in 1879."

—Bill Nash, Taubman Museum of Art Member since 2007