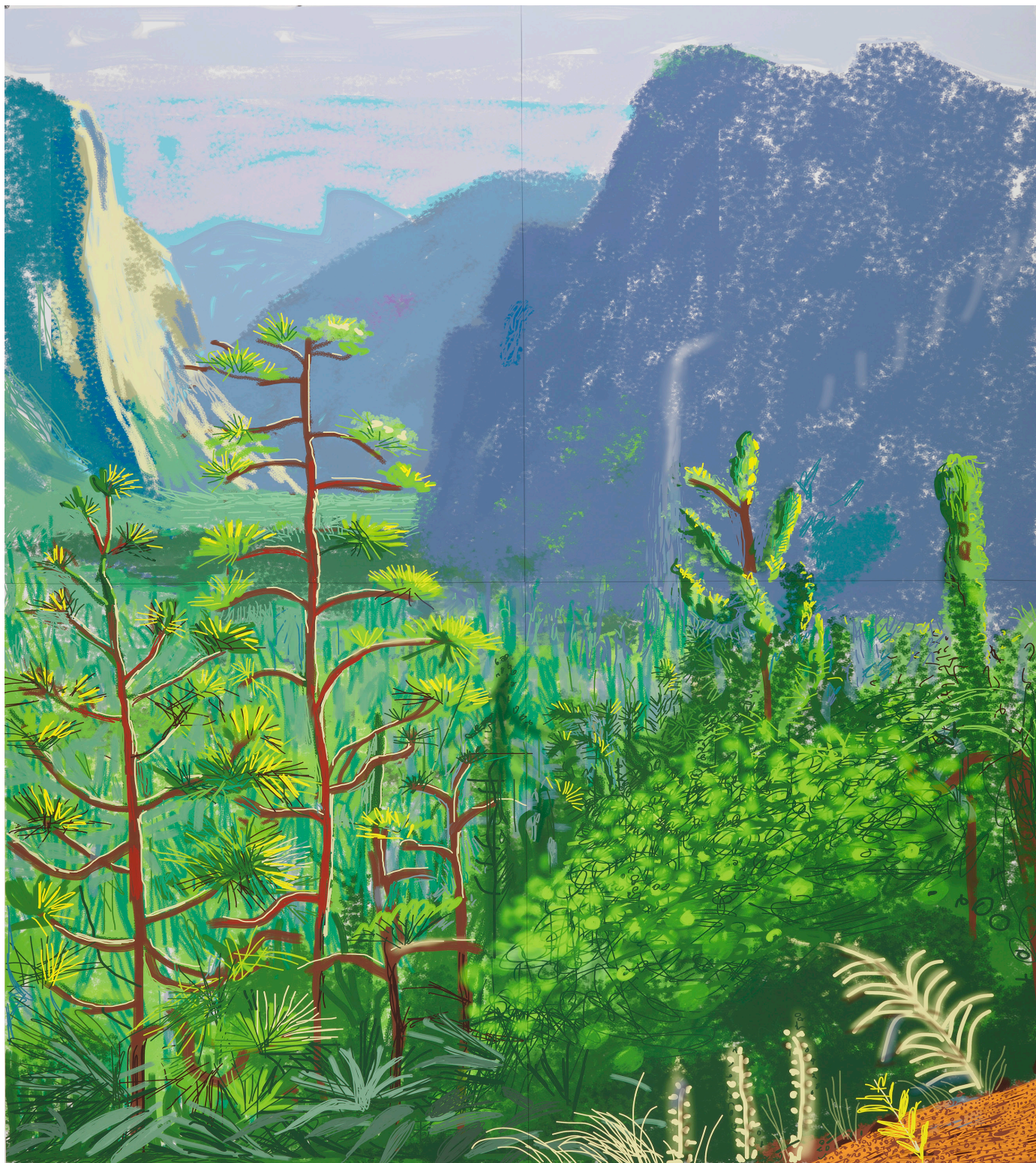


David Hockney's Yosemite

BY ERIN JOYCE | FINE ARTS CURATOR

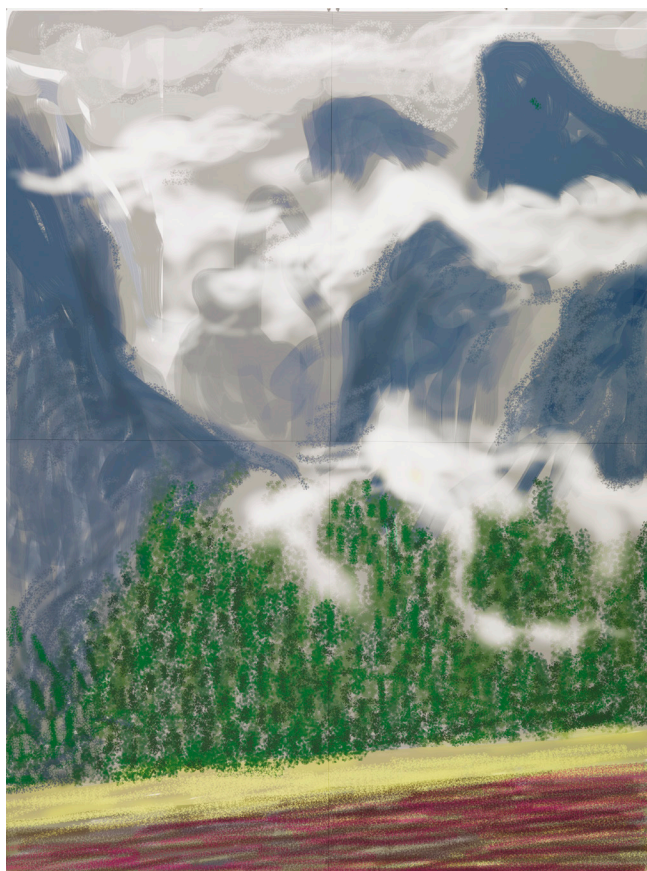




THIS WORK NOT ONLY REFLECTS HOCKNEY'S ONGOING AND INSPIRED VISUAL INTERPRETATION OF THE AMERICAN WEST, IT ALSO CAPTURES HOCKNEY'S WILLINGNESS TO EXPERIMENT, EMBRACE AND EMPLOY DIFFERENT TOOLS FOR ARTISTIC PRODUCTION INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHY, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES, AND HIS WORK AS A PAINTER AND DRAFTSMAN.

David Hockney is considered one of the preeminent draftsmen of the 20th and 21st centuries and is often referred to as Britain's greatest living artist. His work has been shown in monographic exhibitions and retrospectives globally over the course of his more than five-decade career, though his involvement with Yosemite as a subject did not really begin until the 1980s. In 1982, Hockney began the first of his many expeditions to Yosemite, which resulted in a series of photographic collages, some of which are on view in this exhibition. The works comprise dozens of photographs assembled to make one cohesive, visually lush image. There is a cinematic quality in these collages. Movement and energy undulate within the work, as though the aura of the Valley is too big to be contained in one singular photograph.

In 2010, and again in 2011, Hockney visited Yosemite Valley. There, for the first time, he used his iPad to draw en plein air while taking inspiration from the landmarks, vistas, and iconic landscape of the Valley. Featured in the exhibition are 29 limited-edition iPad drawings printed on paper. This work not only reflects Hockney's ongoing and inspired visual interpretation of the American West, it also captures Hockney's willingness to experiment, embrace and employ different tools for artistic production including photography, digital technologies, and his work as a painter and draftsman.



OPPOSITE PAGE: David Hockney, "Yosemite I, October 16th 2011" iPad drawing printed on four sheets of paper (38 7/8 x 34 7/8" each), mounted on four sheets of Dibond, Edition 1 of 12. 77 3/4 x 69 3/4" overall © David Hockney
Photo Credit: Richard Schmidt
Collection The David Hockney Foundation

ABOVE LEFT: David Hockney. Photo: Hannelore Foerster (Getty Images)

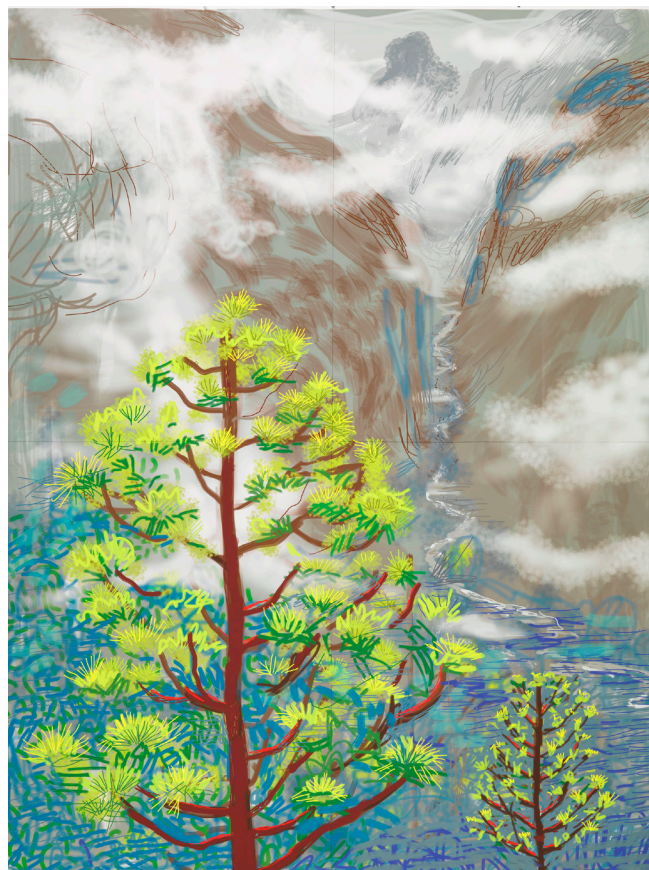
ABOVE: David Hockney, "Yosemite II, October 5th 2011" iPad drawing printed on four sheets of paper (46 3/8 x 34 7/8" each), mounted on four sheets of Dibond, Edition 1 of 12. 92 3/4 x 69 3/4" overall © David Hockney
Photo Credit: Richard Schmidt
Collection The David Hockney Foundation

BOTH DAVID HOCKNEY AND THE BASKET WEAVERS EXTRACT THE YOSEMITE VALLEY THROUGH THEIR OWN PERSONAL AND CULTURAL LENS.

Though, abstracted, the iconic imagery of the Valley is illustrated in Hockney's capturing of Yosemite in his series—you see the famous silhouette of El Capitan, but it is through the artists' eyes. Using supremely saturated, non-local digital colors, Hockney suggests the landscape but does not render it in a literal way. In such—both David Hockney and the basket weavers are extracting and abstracting the Yosemite Valley through their own personal or cultural lenses.

The underlying thesis of the show is Yosemite as Muse—the star of the show. Yosemite's geography and natural resources have inspired, and continue to inspire, artists across time and space. Further discussed by my co-curator, Ann Marshall, in the following article, Lucy Telles, Carrie Bethel, Tina Charlie and other Indigenous basketmakers used the fibers, pushing the medium of basketry beyond its habitual utilitarianism or ceremonial purpose to fine art objects intended for consumption. These baskets are Yosemite. Conversely, Hockney captures the majestic landscape through a very non-natural tool, a computer, in a poetic and beautiful figural representation. Indeed, both David Hockney and the basket weavers express the Yosemite Valley through their own personal and cultural lens.

The exhibition promises to be a rich visual and conceptual experience, one that will transport you to the Yosemite Valley and allow you to view the landscape through multiple perspectives.



ABOVE: David Hockney, "Yosemite I, October 5th 2011" iPad drawing printed on four sheets of paper (46 3/8 x 34 7/8" each), mounted on four sheets of Dibond, Edition 1 of 12; 92 3/4 x 69 3/4" overall © David Hockney
Photo Credit: Richard Schmidt
Collection The David Hockney Foundation

OPPOSITE PAGE: David Hockney, "Yosemite III, October 5th 2011" iPad drawing printed on four sheets of paper (46 3/8 x 34 7/8" each), mounted on four sheets of Dibond, Edition 1 of 12. 92 3/4 x 69 3/4" overall © David Hockney. Photo Credit: Richard Schmidt
Collection The David Hockney Foundation



IT'S YOUR TURN: YOSEMITE will be an interactive and educational space where guests of any age can learn more about the Yosemite Valley. Visitors will have the opportunity to learn more about the fauna of the Yosemite region; experience how basketry materials are cultivated, grown and harvested; try their hand at drawing landscapes with iPads and coloring sheets; and get cozy around a campfire to read stories about nature.

