



CHARLES CLOUGH  
THERE WAS A BEAR

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Alexis Jean Fournier was an American artist. He is well known in Minnesota for his naturalistic paintings of Minneapolis and St. Paul landmarks. Fournier is also renowned beyond Minnesota as an important figure in the Arts and Crafts movement.

Fournier's connection to the Arts and Crafts movement deepened in 1903 when he moved to East Aurora, New York, home of the Roycroft arts community. The community started as a printing shop but evolved to include book art, pottery, metalwork, jewelry, and furniture. The community's leader, Elbert G. Hubbard, had been friends with Fournier for several years. Fournier's move to East Aurora came after Hubbard invited him to be the Roycroft community's permanent art director.

In 1948, at the age of eighty-two, Fournier *slipped on an icy sidewalk* and sustained injuries resulting in his death. Through his landscape paintings and his role in the Arts and Crafts movement, Fournier made a lasting influence on American art. His obituaries revered him as "the last of the Barbizon painters," since his style and admiration for the natural world brought the Barbizon tradition well into the twentieth century. His paintings were exhibited around the world during his lifetime and continue to be displayed and collected. (Wikipedia)

In the 1970s my parents bought the home just north of Fournier's in East Aurora for my grandmothers to live in. Through circuitous circumstances I have been staying at this home while sustaining my artist's residency at the Roycroft. Through even stranger circumstances, a photographic montage that I made, in the mid-1970s, while *painting* 38 Walnut (p. 43), is included in the collection of the Getty Museum (see <http://www.getty.edu/art/collection/objects/44495/charles-clough-assemblage-american-mid-late-1970s/w>).

This is what struck me today when I paid homage to Fournier and continued my commute. Cross your eyes for stereo effect.

—Charles Clough, February 10, 2020









































































































































































































































