Artist Resources – Gilbert Stuart (American, 1755 – 1828)

Gilbert Stuart Museum

Stuart at the National Gallery of Art

Stuart at the White House Historical Association

In 2014, a small exhibition entitled *Anglo-American Portraiture in an Era of Revolution* was sponsored by the Terra Foundation for American Art to travel to the Louvre Museum in Paris, the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, and the High Museum of Art in Atlanta.

Gilbert Stuart: From Boston to Brunswick was at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art in 2015, featuring the artist's famous portraits of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

The Portland Museum of Art in Maine installed *Model Citizens: Art and Identity in the United States, 1770–1830* in 2017. The exhibition included work by the most celebrated artists of the early United States.



Self-Portrait, ca. 1778

In 2018, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston opened *Radicals and Revolutionaries: America's Founding Fathers,* which included a famous Stuart portrait of George Washington.

The Wadsworth Atheneum installed *Hamilton: The Art of Remaking History* in 2022, including "art and artifacts that relate to the era reimagined in [the hit musical] *Hamilton,* including paintings by John Trumbull and Gilbert Stuart, period costumes, silver, and rarely seen archival letters to Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth, from the Wadsworth's permanent collection."



Self-Portrait, ca. 1785

Making American Artists: Stories from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, 1776–1976 was organized in Philadelphia as an exhibition that "offers new narratives in American art history, embracing stories about women artists, LGBTQIA+ artists, and artists of color." The exhibition then traveled to the Wichita Art Museum, Albuquerque Museum, Everson Museum of Art, Peabody Essex Museum, and the Taubman Museum of Art.

In 2026, the Yale Center for British Art opened *Loyalists and Sons of Liberty: America 250* as part of many exhibitions celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the American Declaration of Independence. The exhibition included paintings, prints, drawings, and sculptures by both British-born and American-born artists that capture the complexities of living through the American Revolution.



Gilbert Stuart (American, 1755-1828)
George Washington (Athenaeum-Type), commissioned 1804
Oil on canvas

Private Collection; L2026:72.2

Gilbert Stuart was one of the most recognized and popular American portraitists of his time. Born in the Rhode Island Colony, Stuart studied in Scotland, England, and Ireland before returning to the United States with the goal of painting a portrait of George Washington. Stuart succeeded in 1795, when he began an iconic series of portraits that remain the most recognizable depictions of the nation's first president. **George Washington (Athenaeum-Type)** was commissioned by James Madison as a personal commemoration when he was serving as Secretary of State under Thomas Jefferson. The painting remained in the Madison family home until Dolley Madison's death in 1849, when it was sold and has remained in private collections.

On view October 28, 2026 – February 22, 2027