

Basic Detail Report



In the Forest

Date

1859

Primary Maker

Jean Désiré Gustave Courbet

Medium

Oil on canvas

Dimensions

80 × 99.1 cm

Description

The son of a wealthy farmer, Courbet was a committed Republican and had a deep sympathy for the working classes. While he favoured realist subject matter in preference to subjects derived from poetry and literature this painting reveals the artist's skill in evoking nature's potential for poetic and artistic inspiration. Amid the cool dark trees of this painting, a deer drinks from a pool in a tranquil clearing while a stag is in the foreground. This work was exhibited in 1863 under the title *Amours de Cerfs*. (JO'D)