

# Basic Detail Report

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## Landscape; The Cornfield

### Date

c.1893

### Primary Maker

Nathaniel Hone

### Medium

Oil on canvas

### Dimensions

61 x 101.5 cm

### Description

Three figures, two men and a woman, with white shirts and heads covered, are shown at work in the harvest, perhaps on Hone's land near Malahide, in late summer. They are gathering sheaves of corn from a section of field in the foreground which has already been cut, while the lush, golden expanse of the uncut meadows spreads behind them. The landscape is treated in a simple manner: the field suggested in broad strokes of yellow and gold; loose and rapid brushstrokes depict a clump of trees while above is a cloudy sky with touches of blue. Although Hone is closely associated with pure landscape, small figures do appear in many of his open-air scenes. However, *The Cornfield* is unusual in his oeuvre in that, by his own standards, the figures are quite large and close to the foreground; they are vigorous, shown engaged in work, standing, stooping or crouching. In addition, this is a specific harvest scene, striking in its golden tonality, qualities which give a pastoral, narrative feeling to the painting. Even though it is painted in Ireland, *The Cornfield* relates to the Barbizon tradition of the representation of French peasants at work in the landscape, as well as Poussin's *Summer* 1660-64, which Hone may have seen in the Louvre. (From: *The Collection Revealed: Nathaniel Hone*, p. 15)