

The New Criterion

Art

March 2009

Exhibition notice

by [Mario Naves](#)

On “The Thaw Collection of Master Drawings: Acquisitions Since 2002” at the Morgan Library, New York, January 23, 2009–May 3, 2009.

Whatever else you can say about it, “The Thaw Collection of Master Drawings: Acquisitions Since 2002” offers instructive examples of how artists have dealt with the challenge of drawing foliage. Do they depict it en masse or one leaf at a time? As impressionistic mélange or botanical artifacts? The forest or the trees? The nineteenth-century German engraver Heinrich Reinhold bridged the gap by honing in on the specificities of this leaf or that vine within a broader orchestration of tangled branches. Adrian Zingg, Reinhold’s Swiss contemporary, codified nature by transforming it into jagged shards of patterning. In a spare and scratchy ink drawing circa 1790, Jakob Philipp Hackert rendered foliage as an electrical current. One hundred years later ...

Mario Naves teaches at Pratt Institute and Brooklyn College.

[more from this author](#)

This article originally appeared in The New Criterion, Volume 27 March 2009, on page 46

Copyright © 2009 The New Criterion | www.newcriterion.com

<http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/Exhibition-notice-4036>