

Bierstadt, Albert (b. 1830-1902)  
American, born Soligen, Germany

#### EDUCATION/INFLUENCES

- Not great artistic talent early in his career, art always pastime, not obsession.
- 1853-studied at Dusseldorf School-learned importance of preparatory drawings and attention to detail.

#### BIG IDEAS/THEMES

- Member of the Hudson River School due to the grand scale of his paintings and attention to natural details, but focused on American West. Tended to paint panoramic views, very dramatic.
- On trips West, made hundreds of studies used later to construct large oil paintings. Public hungry for romantic/grand views of unexplored western U.S.
- Love of nature and interest in minute details.

**KIA WORK**-*Mount Brewer from Kings River Canyon*, oil on paper, mounted on board, 1872

- Preparatory work done on-site (sketchier technique and its focus on one particular scene). Its small size and choice of medium as a work on paper (later attached to board) also suggests that it was a painted sketch, as Bierstadt's studies would need to be compact and easy to transport.
- Artwork clearly demonstrates Bierstadt's love of nature and his interest in painting it in minute detail.

