

# Art Illusion and Visual Perception in Early National America



The early national period in American history (1789-1840) was a time of great change and upheaval. The new nation was rapidly expanding westward, and its population was becoming increasingly diverse. These changes had a profound impact on American art and visual culture, as artists sought to capture the spirit of the new nation and its people.



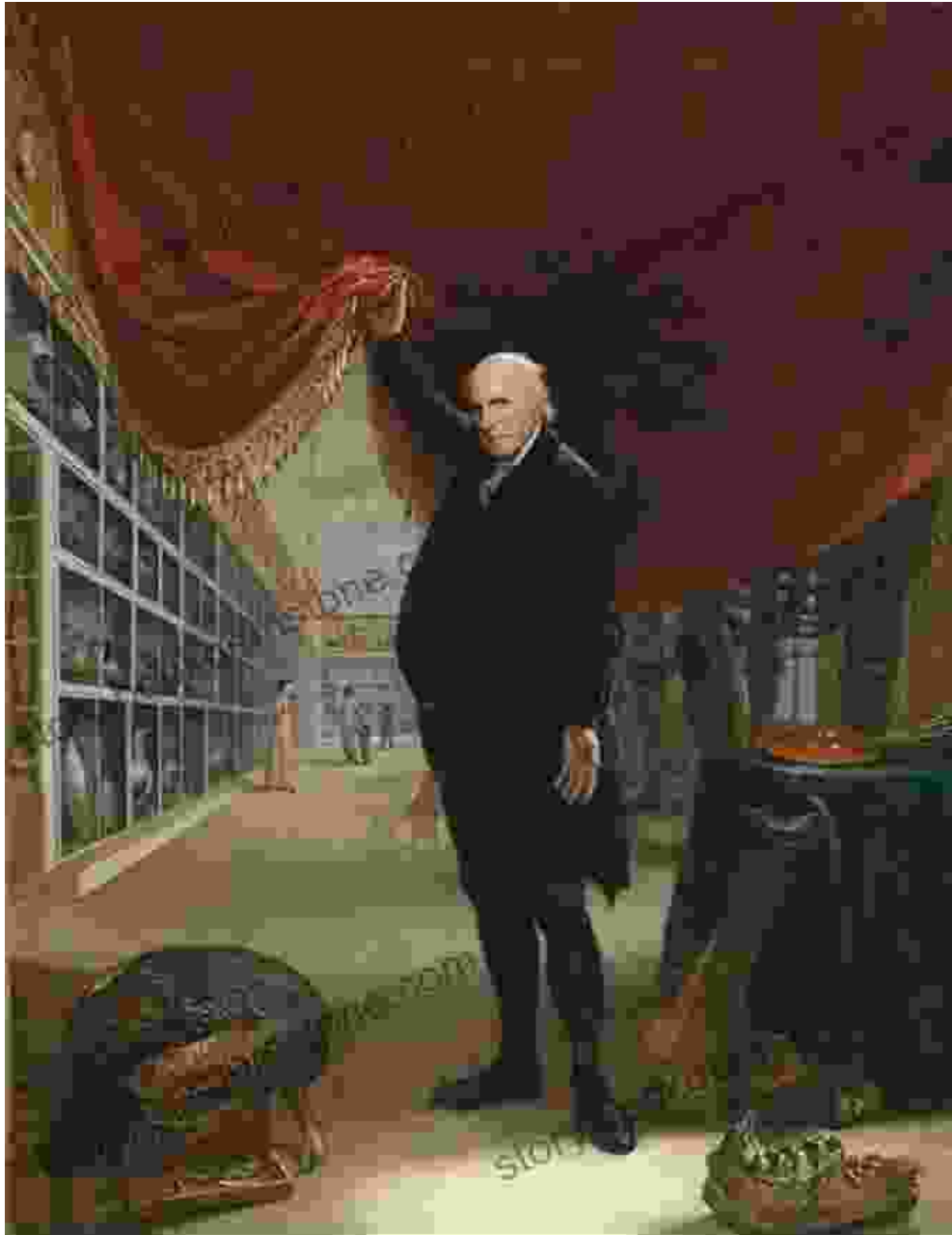
## Citizen Spectator: Art, Illusion, and Visual Perception in Early National America (Published by the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture ... and the University of North Carolina Press) by Wendy Bellion

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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One of the most important developments in American art during this period was the rise of realism. Realist artists sought to depict the world as they saw it, without idealization or exaggeration. This new approach to art was a departure from the more stylized and idealized art of the colonial period.



Realism was not the only new artistic style to emerge during the early national period. Other styles, such as Romanticism and Neoclassicism, also gained popularity. However, realism was the most significant of these new styles, and it had a major impact on the way that Americans perceived the world around them.

### **Art Illusion and Visual Perception**

The rise of realism in American art was closely linked to the development of new theories of visual perception. In the 18th century, scientists began to study the way that the eye and brain work together to create a visual image. These studies led to the development of new theories of perspective and composition, which artists used to create more realistic and lifelike paintings.



One of the most important figures in the development of realism in American art was Charles Willson Peale. Peale was a painter, naturalist, and inventor who founded the first museum in the United States. Peale's work was known for its realism and attention to detail. He was also a pioneer in the use of perspective and composition, and his paintings were often used to illustrate scientific texts.

Another important figure in the development of realism in American art was John Trumbull. Trumbull was a painter and diplomat who is best known for his paintings of historical events. Trumbull's work was also known for its realism and attention to detail. He was a master of perspective and composition, and his paintings were often used to illustrate textbooks and other historical documents.



The rise of realism in American art was a significant event in the history of American culture. It represented a new way of seeing the world, and it had a profound impact on the way that Americans thought about themselves and their place in the world.

The early national period in American history was a time of great change and upheaval. These changes had a profound impact on American art and visual culture, as artists sought to capture the spirit of the new nation and its people. The rise of realism was one of the most important developments

in American art during this period. Realism was a new way of seeing the world, and it had a profound impact on the way that Americans thought about themselves and their place in the world.



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