

# An American In Venice

James McNeill Whistler and His Legacy

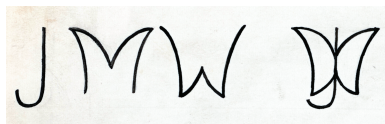
October 24, 2019–January 4, 2020

## Gallery Activity

## Signature Search

Can you find these unusual signatures by Whistler as you tour the gallery?

Most artists sign their art. How many unique signatures can you find in this exhibition?



Did you know that Whistler signed his work with a butterfly? Why do you think he did this? No one knows for sure, but we do know that his butterfly started out as a simple combination of his initials. What could you make out of your initials? Try it here:

How many other butterflies can you find in this exhibition?



Did you know that Whistler sometimes signed his work in more than one place? Where is the second signature in this work? Another uncommon practice, Whistler liked to trim his paper very close to the printed edge, and he would leave a small tab for his butterfly. How many more tabs can you find in this exhibition? Why do you think he did it this way? How would you do it?

**Right, clockwise from the top:** Detail, Minna Bolingbroke (British, 1857–1939), *Venezia*, 1900, etching on wove paper, On Loan from the Syracuse University Art Collection. Detail, James Abbott McNeill Whistler (American, 1834–1903), *Long Venice*, circa 1879–1880, etching on laid paper, On Loan from the Syracuse University Art Collection. Detail, James Abbott McNeill Whistler (American, 1834–1903), *Piazzetta*, circa 1879–1880, etching and drypoint on laid paper, On Loan from the Syracuse University Art Collection. Detail, James Abbott McNeill Whistler (American, 1834–1903), Untitled Sketch of Specimens of the Butterfly Signature of James McNeill Whistler, circa 1800, ink on paper.



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