



Carl Haag 1820–1915
John Mackenzie with a dead stag on a pony, 1853
 Watercolour

The Royal Collection © 2005, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

John Mackenzie with a dead stag on a pony is one of many studies in the collection that were executed for *Evening at Balmoral*.

The watercolour study was actually executed in the Ballroom at Balmoral where a stag was strapped to a pony – the scene was carefully staged although the atmospheric effects captured in the watercolour make it look as if it were done in natural surroundings in the open air.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Carl Haag was from Bavaria but went to England in 1847–48 and entered the Royal Academy, specialising in watercolour. He liked the purity and permanence of watercolour and found it was a good medium to paint landscape and figures.

He worked for Queen Victoria and is well-known for two large watercolours of stag shooting, *Morning in the Highlands*, 1853, and *Evening at Balmoral*, 1854, which reflect deerstalking expeditions at Balmoral Castle in Scotland.

Eventually, the Queen found Haag expensive and troublesome over the copyright of his pictures, and did not employ him after 1865.

STUDENT FOCUS QUESTIONS

- How does the absence of background impact on this artwork?
- To what effect has Haag used light to create form?
- How has the artist created a sense of texture?

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

<http://www.orientalistart.net/Carlhaagpaintings.html>

<http://www.humrichfineart.com/haag.html>

http://www.goodallartists.ca/carl_haag_rws_1820.htm