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of Peace and War.

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is a powerful appeal for concord in the church. PEACEABLE
KINGDOM presents the prophet Isaiah's vision clearly.
Only one thing eludes us—the request Edward Hicks
makes of his audience—peace.**

Edward Hicks (1780-1849), PEACEABLE KINGDOM, 1826. Oil on canvas, 32 ½ x 41 ½ in. Philadelphia Museum of Art: Bequest of Charles C. Willis.

Kingdom Come

BY HEIDI J. HORNICK

Edward Hicks famously painted sixty-two versions of *Peaceable Kingdom*, portraying Isaiah's prophecy: "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6). Though the artist was neither well-trained by today's standards nor well-known during his lifetime, his paintings are displayed now in classrooms, churches, art studios, and art history lecture halls. *Peaceable Kingdom* presents the biblical narrative clearly and in pleasing colors. Only one thing eludes us—the request Hicks makes of his audience—peace.

In the foreground, domestic and wild animals share a common space with a child. The Philadelphia work illustrated here, like most versions of the theme, also depicts Englishman William Penn signing a treaty with the Leni-Lenape Indians in 1682. According to tradition, this ceremony occurred under the "Treaty Elm" at Shackamaxon, half a mile north of the center of Philadelphia. The poem in the border relates Isaiah's vision of peace to the founding of Pennsylvania, which means "Penn's woods."

It's not quite accurate to describe the painting's style as naïve or simplistic. The artist intentionally worked in the American folk art tradition, as a major retrospective, "The Kingdoms of Edward Hicks," showed in 1999. He preferred simple figures in an organized placement on a flat picture plane.

A devout Quaker family raised Hicks after his mother's death in 1781. Trained as a craftsman, as measured by their Quaker sensibilities, he painted only utilitarian objects: coaches, houses, and signs, and decorations on milk buckets, clock faces, and fireboards. After farming for a time, he became a Quaker minister at the age of thirty-two.

Hick's religious beliefs, simplicity, and self-discipline were rooted in eighteenth-century quietism. He traveled widely and saw the division between orthodox Quakers in England and more liberal-minded American Quakers. The *Peaceable Kingdom* series began about eight years into his ministry, as "painted sermons" to teach other Quakers his intense religious conviction. The innocence of the child, hugging the neck of the lion, is Hicks' powerful statement of peace. In later versions, the animals represent different factions in the Quaker unrest.