

**CONSTANCE FREDERICKA
GORDON CUMMING**

Scotland, 1837–1924

Crags, Lava Bed, 1879

Ink, ink wash, white heightening on paper

Purchased with funds derived from the 1992
Academy auction, 1992 (21,513)

An intrepid and popular Scottish travel writer and amateur artist, Constance Fredericka Gordon Cumming painted numerous views of volcanoes. After arriving in Hilo in 1879, she sketched and made watercolors of Kilauea Crater and its fantastic lava formations. About this particular drawing Cummings wrote:

The crags on the right represent the circle of three miles which is the actual chimney--sometimes a real empty chimney--sometimes a lake of fire--sometimes as here shown--crags. The sketch represents an overflow which burst up in the outer crater on the 1st of Nov. 1879. overflowing the lava bed over wh[ich] I had walked the previous day. Sketch done at night from the rest house.

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As with *Crags, Lava Bed* Cumming described this
sketch of Kīlauea:

*general view of [the] crater of Kīlauea looking to
Mauna Loa on summit of which is the crater of
Mokua-weo-weo. The crater of Kīlauea is a circle of
10 miles. The crags in the center are a circle of 3
miles and mark the chimney of the crater.*