

here:now Artwork Discussion – Community: In This Together (3)

<https://youtu.be/Nbh0n9wsUjU>

Thank you for joining us for a virtual here:now Artwork Discussion with the Frye Art Museum. My name is Caroline, and I am the Education Coordinator here at the Frye. I will be facilitating today's digital discussion. While we cannot be together in the galleries, we hope you will still enjoy the opportunity to slow down, look closely, and spend some time with a work from the Frye Collection.

It's always fun to look at art by yourself or invite a friend or family member to join you in this discussion. You might also choose to write down your observations or make a drawing in response. If this is the case, please gather your materials now.

We will begin each artwork discussion by taking a quiet moment to simply look at the work of art and observe. Remember there are no right or wrong answers—it's about what you notice or experience when looking. After you have taken a moment to observe on your own, I will ask some questions to guide your looking and provide information about the artwork before we end.

You can expand or minimize the video on your screen for the discussion. You can also access closed captioning through the settings tool. Take a moment to see what works best for your viewing.

Today's theme is **Community: In This Together**. Described often as a fellowship, individuals of a community share commonalities, whether in attitudes, interests, or goals. As we discuss today's work of art, I encourage you to consider the role community plays in your life.

I am particularly excited that this format allows us to share works from the Frye's collection that we have not previously featured in a here:now discussion.

This is the artwork we will be looking at today. We will take pauses in between each set of questions to give you time to look closely at the artwork and think about your responses. Remember: you may pause this video at any time to spend more time on one of the slides.

To start our discussion, please take 30 seconds to look quietly at this piece. You might start at the top corner of the canvas, moving across and down. You may move close to the screen to see details or step back for a new perspective. Your cursor is a great tool to trace and track details within the artwork.

Thank you for your quiet observation.

We will now move into our guided questions. If you are looking with a friend or family member, we hope you will share your observations, or consider writing down or sketching your answers.

1. What are some words you would use to describe this scene?
2. Let's look at the colors the artist used in this painting. How would you describe these colors? How do they make you feel?
3. Close your eyes and imagine you are in this painting. What might you hear? Smell? See? Touch? If you were to step into this work of art and take the place of one of the figures, which one might you choose and why?
4. If you were able to add a figure to this work of art, what might they be doing? Where would you place them in the scene? I encourage you to act it out or sketch the figure on a piece of paper.

Thank you for taking the time to share and reflect on your observations. I would now like to share some information on this piece.

Helmi Dagmar Juvonen (American, 1903 - 1985)

State Fair, 1975-6

Tempera on paper

19 5/8 x 29 3/8 in.

Frye Art Museum, Museum Purchase, 1976.010

Born in the early 20th century into an artistic family, Helmi Juvonen grew up in West Seattle, remaining an integral part of the Seattle art scene for over 60 years.

Juvonen received scholarships to attend what we know now as Cornish College of the Arts, a place where she would eventually teach as well. She explored a variety of mediums throughout her career, including creating mechanical drawings for Boeing during WWII, but was known for her study and appreciation of Native American art. Juvonen's sincerity gained her acceptance into indigenous communities and ceremonies, which she documented for local institutions, including today's Burke Museum.

The artwork we are looking at today, *State Fair*, was made for a 1976 exhibition at the Frye Art Museum, the first major retrospective of Juvonen's work. At this time, Juvonen was living in a mental health institution and her main societal contact was through magazines, books, and correspondence with friends. Her research revealed a resurgence in the appreciation of folk art, so she adopted the style, marking a dramatic shift in her work.

Folk art is rooted the culture of a community, something evident in *State Fair*. Our perspective is filled with the individuals that make up this scene. There are people riding animals, playing music, and enjoying ice cream. There is a booth to win prizes, and a couple of clowns providing entertainment. The landscape is purely informative—we are outside—and sparsely detailed.

Juvonen's appreciation for Native American art, coupled with her gregarious and whimsical personality, allowed the artist to create original and energetic imagery

like *State Fair*. Today, Juvonen's work can also be seen at the Seattle Art Museum, the Henry Gallery, and in many private collections.

I'd like to leave you with a topic of conversation. Summer is often a time for communities to come together outdoors. What do you enjoy doing in the summer within your community? Share with the person you are watching with, write it down, or sketch it out.

Thank you for joining us for a here:now artwork discussion and for being part of the Frye community. We value your support and can't wait to welcome you back to the Museum again soon.