

here:now Artwork Discussion – Exploration: Paintings That Transport You (3)

<https://youtu.be/27rF6gLi7S8>

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 making 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 **Exploration: Paintings that Transport You**. As we continue to stay home and remain safe, we may find ourselves seeking adventure through a good book or a daydream. I encourage you to let your mind roam as we explore a painting from the Frye Collection.

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 quietly look 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. Where does your eye go first when looking at this landscape? What about next and then last?
2. What time of year might it be? What do you see that makes you say that?
3. Do you think this is a real landscape? Is this a familiar landscape to you?
4. There is a small figure at the center of the canvas. We cannot see their face. In your opinion, how might the figure in the work of art be feeling? What do you see that makes you say that?

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

Theodore Roosevelt Lambert (American, 1905-1960)
Denali - Mt. McKinley (From the Susitna Valley), 1940
Oil on canvas
28 1/8 x 32 1/8 in.
Frye Art Museum, Museum Purchase, 1972.015

Born in the early 1900s to a religious family in Zion, Illinois, Ted Lambert showed an early interest in art, winning a national drawing contest at the age of 15.

Lambert left home at the age of 17, working as a laborer across the western United States, Alaska, and Canada, until he saved enough money to attend the American Academy of Art in Chicago. Following his studies, Lambert worked as a mentee to famed painter Eustace Ziegler in Seattle. The two became close friends and colleagues, even traveling across Alaska together in a homemade boat.

Lambert spent the later years of his life living in a small cabin in western Alaska. He became reclusive and mysteriously disappeared in 1960. Lambert was declared legally dead in 1965.

Lambert left behind an impressive body of artworks chronicling his life in Alaska, an at-times primitive existence amid some of the most beautiful scenery in the world.

Denali - Mt. McKinley captures both the paradise of the Alaskan landscape and Lambert's realistic detail and impressionist style. Grassy, olive green hills, moss-covered rocks, and alpine trees provide a dramatic backdrop for a lone hiker as he looks out on the majestic snowcapped mountain range. Steeped in shades of lavender and midnight blue, the painting demonstrates Lambert's skill at depicting nature in blocks of varied color. His signature short, aggressive brushstrokes are said to mirror the tense and restless nature that shaped the artist's personal life.

Today, Lambert remains one of the 20th century's most influential painters of Alaska. I would like to leave you with a conversation topic. During this time at home, where have you been spending time to relax or take a quiet moment of peace?

Thank you for joining us for a here:now artwork discussion. We can't wait to welcome you back to the Frye again soon.