Joslyn Art Museum

Art Chats

ANIMAL HIDE & SEEK

Look:
What animal do you see first? Likely, Giorgio Cornaro’s falcon. Now look closer. Do you see his dog, a setter, in the lower left corner? Both animals had a job—they were trained to hunt.

Discuss:
Do you like dogs? Why or why not?

How do you feel about birds?

What kind of relationship do you think this young nobleman has with his animals?

If you have an animal in your life, describe what bond you have with them.

Does this animal have a job to do? What is it?

About the Artist: Tiziano Vecellio, known in English as Titian [Ti-shuhn], was born between 1488-1490 in Italy. After apprenticeships, he quickly became the most famous painter in Venice. The artist utilized new techniques and a range of colors, movement, and brushstrokes, as well as chiaroscuro (the dramatic treatment of light and dark within paintings). Considered the “Prince of Painters,” Titian painted portraits, religious themes, and scenes of mythical and allegorical figures until his death on August 27, 1576.
About the Artist: Kiowa artist Teri Greeves was born and raised on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming with the Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Native American tribes. At age eight, she began beadworking while minding her mother’s trading post. The artist shares her experience as a modern Kiowa woman through her work, which fuses Kiowa beadwork and Shoshone pictorial style. She prioritizes storytelling over using traditional objects and has beaded on everything from tipis to high heel boots and tennis shoes.

Check out the artwork and the prompts, and start an artful discussion with the people you love. Great for all ages!

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Look:
What do you notice first about this colorful pair of high-top tennis shoes? What makes them appear so special?

Do you see the large bright yellow horse and small deep red one? Look closer—are those feathers in the horses’ manes!?

Discuss:
Using your best art language, describe the geometric shapes, vivid colors, and galloping animals. What do you think these shoes say about the artist, her skills, her interests, her life and loves?

If you designed your own beaded shoes, what would they show us about you? Would your design include animals? Tell us more!

About the Subject: The patron saint of Madrid, St. Isidore the Farm-Laborer was also much revered in the Spanish colonies. Isidore was a poor peasant working for a master who begrudged him the time he devoted to religious observance. Once, when he was about to rebuke Isidore for neglecting his tasks, the master saw two angels doing his field work for him. This image identifies Isidore’s religious significance but otherwise depicts him as a contemporary peasant in knee-breeches and hat.
**About the Artwork:** The *Greenhow Children* represents a departure from earlier American portraiture. The informal poses contrast with the stiff Colonial depictions. Whereas all portraiture served to confirm the sitter’s privileged station, evidenced here by the comfortable setting and the servant pictured second from left, this work also demonstrates changing attitudes toward children. By the nineteenth century, childhood was understood as a distinct phase of life marked by innate innocence, contradicting earlier ideas of children as miniature adults.

**Art Chats**

*ANIMAL HIDE & SEEK*

**Look:**

Do these kids have a pet? You bet! Does it bark or bite or swim or sting? Mockingbirds are playful birds that simply like to sing!

How does this artist show us they are also intelligent birds, protective of their babies?

**Discuss:**

Did you know during the nineteenth century, children—like the Greenhow kids—were encouraged to raise birds as a way of learning how to nurture and care for living things? The caged baby birds being fed by the adult can be compared to the way the children are protected and cared for before the time is right to “fly the nest.”

How far can you fly on your bike, scooter, or skateboard away from your nest?
Art Chats

Charles Emile Jacque (French, 1813–1894), Return of the Flock, n.d., oil on canvas, 22 x 18 1/4 in. (55.88 x 46.36 cm), Gift of Francis T. B. Martin, 1991.4

About the Artist: Painter, printmaker, and illustrator, Charles Emile Jacque joined the artists’ colony in the village of Barbizon in the 1840s. Rural subjects, especially farm animals, became his favored subject matter, and he produced numerous compositions featuring chickens or sheep in farm yards and barns. Jacque’s manner of painting in increasingly thick impasto produced a rich texture that simulates the physical qualities of straw, rough masonry, animal hair and plumage, accounting for the works’ lifelike naturalism.

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ANIMAL HIDE & SEEK

Look:

Imagine you followed this flock right into the frame. Look around. Is this a fancy farmyard?

What sounds and smells do you experience—the sweet straw, the clucking chickens, the baa and bleat of the sheep?

Discuss:

Talk about how these things make you feel.

How has the artist used warm colors, dim light, rough paint, and the position of the animals to achieve the mood?

Are these people friends? What do you suppose they are chatting about? Perhaps they’re talking about how happy they are YOU showed up!

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