Art Chats

Grant Wood (American, 1891–1942), *Stone City, Iowa*, 1930, oil on wood panel, 30 1/4 x 40 in. (76.84 x 101.6 cm), Gift of the Art Institute of Omaha, 1930.35, Art © Estate of Grant Wood/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York, NY

**About the Artist:** American Regionalist Grant Wood (1891–1942) was an ardent promoter of humble, hometown values. Wood was born on a small farm near Anamosa, Iowa. This upbringing would be the basis of his iconic images of small-town, plain folk and verdant Midwestern vistas. His stylized, hard-edged realism perfectly blended with his observant and sometimes wry characterizations of rural life. His paintings showed reassuring American subjects tied to enduring myths about the perfection of agrarian life.

**Joslyn Art Museum Art Chats**

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

**Look:**

Over the river and through the hills to Stone City, Iowa! Grant Wood is giving us a bird’s-eye view of a very curious landscape. What catches your attention first? Is it the clear, sharp edges and the geometric shapes? Is it the rhythm of the landscape—up and down, in and out?

Surrounding the various buildings and bridges, hard-to-spot people, and tiny barnyard animals, did you notice the trees and land transform into what looks like watermelon, peas, slices of bread, and even Brussel sprouts? Yum!

**Discuss:**

This painting was created during the Great Depression. Talk about why you think the artist, who grew up in a small town in Iowa, decided to paint this bright scene of rural life with abundant references to food. With others in your house, see who can spot the most veggies!

**Hungry for More**

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