William Merritt Chase (American, 1849–1916), *Sunlight and Shadow*, 1884, oil on canvas, 65¼ x 77¾ in.; 165.74 x 194.3 cm, Gift of the Friends of Art, 1932.4

**About the Artist:** Born in Indiana, William Merritt Chase (1849–1916) began studying painting at age 18. In 1872, following three years of study at the National Academy of Design in New York, Chase entered the Munich Royal Academy. From there he traveled Europe and established his reputation by successfully exhibiting in London and Munich as well as in New York. His paintings were admired for their luminous color, virtuoso brushstroke, and assured composition, and his work was exhibited widely, often winning awards.

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**Look:**

Be a detective and look for clues!

Did you spot the sulking lady lounging in the hammock? What’s on her mind?

And that dapper gentleman—what about that bouquet of orange flowers poking out of his pocket?

Did you notice the cigarette butts on the ground near his shoes, and the discarded newspaper? It looks like he’s been fiddling with his tea cup for quite some time!

What do you think the artist is trying to tell us with the empty black chair?

**Discuss:**

Talk about the title of this painting. Might it symbolize more than just patches of sunlight on a shady patio?

Could *Sunlight and Shadow* have something to do with the feelings of this socially-distanced couple?
Love is...

Look:
- What’s going on in this picture?
- What is this woman holding in her hands?
- Does her expression give you a clue about what she might be thinking? How can you tell?
- Is she waiting for someone special? Only time will tell!

Discuss:
- When was the last time you counted down the hours, waiting patiently or anxiously, for a loved one to return?
- Did you dress up or prepare a celebration to welcome them?

About the Artist: Auguste Toulmouche (1829–1890) was a French painter of genre subjects and was a pupil of Charles Gleyre (1806–1874). He began his career as a portrait painter and moved on to specialize in interiors, especially intimate domestic scenes of stylishly dressed Parisiennes. He first exhibited at the Paris Salon in 1848 and went on to win many medals in following exhibitions. A master of portraying the rich color and textures of contemporary fashion and fabric, he enjoyed considerable success during his lifetime.

**About the Artist**: Allan Houser (1914–1994), the most important individual in the development of contemporary American Indian sculpture, was equally accomplished whether working with stone or bronze. His subjects were always Native American, but his themes, like the maternal warmth of *Peaceful Serenity*, are often universal. Houser’s sculptures range from completely realist to highly abstract, but his instantly identifiable signature style is a sinuous, elegant semi-abstraction of form, typified in *Peaceful Serenity*.

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**Love is...**

**Look:**
Simple, slim shapes sculpted in bronze. Using your eyes and fingers, trace the graceful silhouette and sweeping curves of this elegant abstract work of art.

What forms do you see?

What forms don’t you see?

**Discuss:**
Grab a pencil and copy, the best you can, Allan Houser’s warm, wrapped family.

Now, talk with your friends or family members about your idea of “peaceful serenity,” and draw a picture of what those words mean to you.

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**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!
Art Chats

Attributed to the Omaha Painter (Greek, 6th century B.C.), Attic Black-Figure Ovoid Neck-Amphora, c. 570 B.C., terracotta, colored slips, 13 x 10 in., Gift of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Woods, Jr., 1963.48

Joslyn Art Museum

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

 LOVE IS...

Look:

Love is...Achilles and Penthesilea, Queen of the Amazons! Two valiant warriors who happen to fall in love at the moment of death!

Look very closely. Can you see how their eyes meet?

Did you know female figures on Greek vases are often identified by the color of their white skin? So who here has the upper hand?

How did this ancient Greek painter of pots express a connection between these two adversaries?

Discuss:

Greek vases have a lot to teach us about life. What is your favorite tale from Greek mythology?

About the Artwork: The designs on Greek pottery pieces were based on scenes from daily life and mythology. The scene here depicts a Greek hero slaying an Amazon. The Amazons, a mythical race of barbarian women who fought as men, are distinguished from male warriors by the contrasting white color of their flesh. Because the names of the vase painters are not known, identities are assigned based on an aspect of style or the location of an important work.
Jean Vignaud (French, 1775–1826), *Abelard and Heloise Surprised by the Abbot Fulbert*, 1819, oil on canvas, 47 1/2 x 39 3/4 in., Museum purchase, Collector’s Choice, 1985, 1985.6, Photograph © Bruce M. White, 2019

**About the Artist:** Jean Vignaud (1775–1826) was among a group of students of Jacques-Louis David (1748–1825) who combined the classical techniques of their academic training, an appreciation for Dutch genre painting, and an affiliation with a cult of medievalism in intellectual and artistic circles to produce an archaizing type of historical genre painting called the *style troubadour*. Vignaud exhibited at the annual Paris Salon from 1806 through 1824. He also served as director of school of fine arts at Nîmes in southern France.

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**Art Chats**

**Love is...**

**Look:**

Busted! How do we know these two snuggling lovebirds are about to be in big trouble?

Looking around their colorful chamber, we see the artist has taken great care to show us many details about this couple’s life.

What are some of their pastimes and hobbies?

What are they interested in—besides each other?

**Discuss:**

Make up a story about this painting!

How does the tale of Abelard and Heloise begin...and how does it end?

Do they live happily ever after?

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*Joslyn Art Museum*

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