Chauncey Bradley Ives (American, 1810–1894), *Shepherd Boy and Kid*, 1859, marble, 56 x 24 x 19 in. (142.24 x 60.96 x 48.26 cm), Gift of the Joslyn Art Museum Association in honor of its Fiftieth Anniversary, 2001.16

**People & Pets**

**Look:**

From the coat of the goat to the shepherd boy’s smooth skin, this sculpture tempts us to touch! How many different textures do you see?

Where is it bumpy, lumpy, and clumpy? Where do you see soft, shiny, polished surfaces? With all these tremendous textures, it’s hard to believe this boy and his eager companion are carved from stone!

**Discuss:**

Classical subjects from the ancient Greek and Roman world, especially tales from mythology, inspired Chauncey B. Ives. *Shepherd Boy and Kid* might have reminded people of the mythological nature god, Pan. Part man and part goat, Pan was a wild, mischievous child whose goat-like feet and horned head startled most mortals. A friend to shepherds and flocks, Pan lived in the forests and glens and was rarely without his instrument, the panpipes.

Talk about the things you see related to the story of Pan.

**About the Artist:** Like many nineteenth-century American sculptors, Chauncey Bradley Ives (1810–1894) spent the majority of his career in Italy studying the works of classical antiquity. He enjoyed tremendous stature and success and was known equally for large-scale works based on mythological and literary themes as well as diminutive depictions of children that satisfied his audiences’ taste for the sentimental.
Konstantin Egorovich Makovsky (Russian, 1839–1915), *Russian Beauty and Cat*, 1865, oil on canvas, 45 1/4 x 36 1/2 in. (115.6 x 92.7 cm), Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Martin, 1954.172

**Look:**

Let your eyes wander. Notice the way the artist has captured the light. See how the sunshine illuminates *Russian Beauty*’s shoulder, her white puffy sleeve, her embroidered gold cap, and jeweled necklace.

Can you sense the warmth that radiates throughout this painting? How has the artist shown us that this purrfectly painted pet is one comfy kitty?

**Discuss:**

Why do you think pets are such a popular subject for artists around the world? Why do we humans love drawing, painting, and sculpting our furry friends?

Today, we consider our cuddly companions members of the family, but that was not always the case! Long ago dogs and cats were domesticated in order to serve humans, mainly as skilled hunters. When the cat’s away the mice will play, so they say!

**About the Artist:** Konstantin Egorovich Makovsky (1839–1915) is best known as a champion of Russian subject matter, painter of peasant scenes, and founding member of the revolutionary movement known as the “Wanderers.” Makovsky took an active part in an unprecedented rebellion against the authorities in 1863, and helped form the Artel’ Khudozhnikov, an independent artists’ cooperative that advocated freedom from Academic rules and subject matter and saw themselves as part of a new moral and rational order.
Art Chats

**People & Pets**

**Look:**
The artist Eastman Johnson painted his daughter Ethel many times over the years. Here we see eight-year-old absorbed in the moment, cuddling her beloved pet rabbit.

Notice the similarity in shape between the feathery forms of Ethel's lace collar and the white fur of her fuzzy bunny. Do you see how the rabbit's ears mirror the form of Ethel's fingers as she gently fondles her fluffy friend? The artist strengthens the relationship between child and pet by creating these visual connections.

**Discuss:**
How would you describe the bond between Ethel and her bunny? What do you see that makes you say that? If you have a pet, what do you have in common with your pets? Do you both enjoy playing ball, snoozing on the couch, or swimming?

Try creating a double portrait of you and a pet together having fun. Grab a paintbrush and hop to it!

**About the Artist:** After achieving success as a portrait painter, Eastman Johnson (1824–1906) enrolled in Düsseldorf’s academy. This school emphasized precise draftsmanship, smooth finishes, and anecdotal subjects. After his return home, Johnson specialized in intimate scenes of everyday life that satisfied America’s nostalgia for simpler times. In the 1870s, the artist painted several portraits of his daughter, Ethel, with her favorite pet, and these paintings are considered some of the most sophisticated Johnson produced.
Look:
What do you wonder about this portrait of a little boy? It’s no wonder you see a pampered pooch—pawtraits of small, friendly dogs appear everywhere in seventeenth-century Dutch paintings.

This spaniel may have been the child’s favorite companion, but as a traditional symbol of obedience and loyalty, his four-legged friend was also a metaphor for the education and raising of children.

Discuss:
What else do you wonder? If you’re curious about the little boy’s outfit, you’re not alone! Until the late nineteenth century, young European boys typically wore gowns or dresses until they were at least potty-trained. Young boys dressed in trousers only after they reached an age when they could undo the fasteners—belts, buckles, and buttons—all by themselves.

It is often hard to tell the difference between boys and girls in old, aristocratic portraits. This kid’s surely not dressed for the dog park!

About the Artist: Little is known about the Dutch portrait painter Christiaen van Colenbergh (before 1635–after 1680). From the 1660s until 1683 he was active in Utrecht, where he belonged to the local artists’ guild.