

# LET'S LOOK

## VISIT THE MAIN GALLERIES

**Let's look** for the work of art by Roger Brown pictured below, called *Forest Fire*.

### **What do you see?**

This painting shows a moment of activity taking place in a forest landscape.

### **What story is unfolding in *Forest Fire*?**

**Consider the different points of view of the people in the painting, and tell a story from one of their perspectives.**

Look closely to see the different art elements at play. **What do you notice about the colors, lines, shapes, and illusion of space? How do they help you understand the scene depicted here?**



## WHAT IS A LANDSCAPE PAINTING?

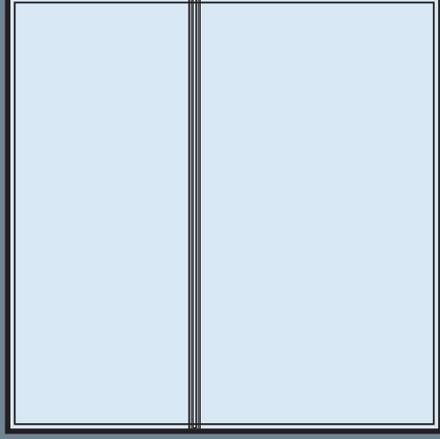
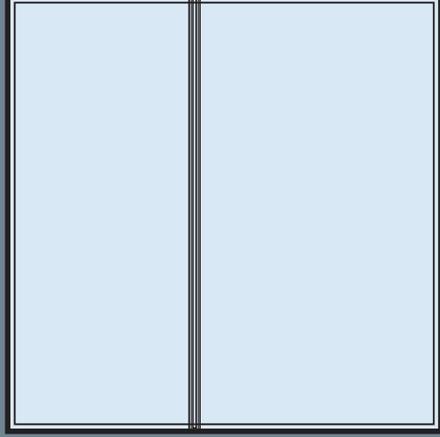
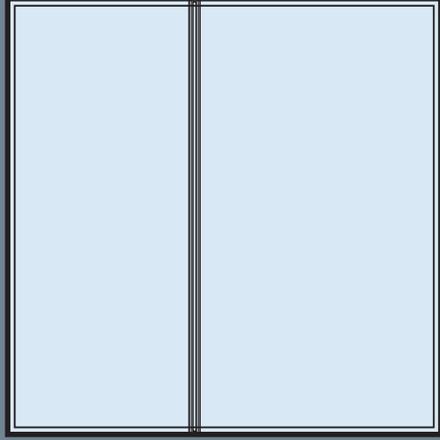
Nature in some form—mountains, a lake, or the sky—is the subject of **landscape painting**. A landscape painting can be realistic or abstract, and express different moods—from a sunny field of flowers to a stormy seaside. Landscapes can depict an actual or imaginary place, and can tell stories about the ways people interact with and think about their environments.

**Roger Brown** was a prolific artist who was inspired by pop culture, folk art, people, architecture, and natural environments. Every artist has their own **style**, or way of making art, and Brown became known for his dramatic style of painting.

**In what ways did he create a feeling of drama in *Forest Fire*?**

Roger Brown, *Forest Fire*, 1976. Oil on canvas, 52 x 72 inches. Collection of the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art. Gift of Mark and Judy Bednar.

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## IMAGINE...

You are riding on the bus in the bottom right corner of *Forest Fire*. What do you see, hear, and smell? How do you feel?

**Draw what you see through the bus windows as it continues down the road, or change the story and make your own imaginary landscape.**

## FOREST FIRES

Think about the title, *Forest Fire*, and notice that fire is absent from the scene.

What clues in the painting relate to fire? **Why might Roger Brown have chosen to depict a “forest fire” in this way?**

In recent years there have been large wildfires burning all around the world, from Siberia to Australia to the United States. Think about the ways that fires start, and the effects that they have on humans, animals, plants, and the planet. **Consider your relationship to the environment. What can you do to help keep it healthy?**