

BYU MUSEUM OF ART

OPEN STUDIO DECEMBER

WHEN WE PICTURE THE HOLIDAYS, WE OFTEN THINK OF THE PERFECT SCENE. MAYBE IT IS THE SNOW FALLING OUTSIDE THE WINDOW WITH THE WARM GLOW OF THE FIRE INSIDE, OR PERHAPS IT IS THE TREE TRIMMED WITH LIGHTS WHILE A FAVORITE CHRISTMAS CAROL PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND. TODAY WE WILL LOOK AT DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS SCENES IN *OF SOULS AND SACRAMENTS*. THEN, WE WILL CREATE OUR OWN HOLIDAY SCENE IN THE STUDIO FOCUSING ON DEPTH, DETAILS, SYMBOLS, TRADITIONS, AND MORE.

MADONNA AND CHILD ENTHRONED, SURROUNDED BY SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST, MARGARET OF ANTIOCH, SAINT LAURENCE, SAINT LUCY, AND ANGELS, THE PREDELLA ILLUSTRATED WITH THE DEPOSITION OF CHRIST

NICCOLÒ DI PIETRO GERINI (ITALIAN, 1320-1426)

AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE EXHIBITION, WE SEE THIS WORK. IN THE BACKGROUND, NOTICE THE ANGELS WHO HOLD AN HONORIFIC CLOTH BEHIND THE ENTHRONED VIRGIN MARY. IT IS ADORNED WITH ELABORATE DETAILS AND GIVES A SENSE OF DEPTH TO THE SCENE. ALLOW YOUR EYES TO WANDER OVER THE FIGURES WHO GATHER TO WORSHIP CHRIST ON MARY'S LAP. PAY ATTENTION TO THE WAY THE ARTIST HAS ATTEMPTED TO CREATE PERSPECTIVE WITH THE FIGURES WHO OVERLAP ONE OTHER. AS WE MOVE OUTWARD, WE FIND THAT THE DECORATED, SCULPTURAL FRAME ALSO ADDS A VERY REAL SENSE OF DEPTH.

HOW WOULD THIS ARTWORK BE DIFFERENT WITH A LESS ELABORATE FRAME?

WHAT DO YOU USE TO DECORATE AND ENHANCE YOUR HOME THIS TIME OF YEAR?



Let's head around the corner to our next work...

**THE WEDDING FEAST AT CANA
VENETIAN SCHOOL (ITALIAN, 16TH
CENTURY)**

JEWISH WEDDINGS ARE FILLED WITH TRADITION, ONE BEING A BIG FEAST PREPARED FOR THE GUESTS. THIS PAINTING DEPICTS CHRIST'S FIRST MIRACLE WHERE HE TURNED THE WATER INTO WINE FOR THE GUESTS.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITIONS THIS TIME OF YEAR?

NOTICE THE PERSPECTIVE LINES THAT LEAD OUR EYES TO CHRIST. THEY REMIND US OF HIS SIGNIFICANCE, THE MIRACLE HE PERFORMED AND GIVE DEPTH THE THE SCENE.

LOOKING AT THE LIGHTING, CLOTHING, AND EXPRESSIONS OF THE FIGURES IN THIS WORK, HOW DO THESE ASPECTS SET CHRIST APART FROM THOSE AROUND HIM?



**THE NATIVITY
WORKSHOP OF POMPEO BATONI (ITALIAN, 1708-1787)**

THIS SCENE CAPTURES A NEWLY BORN CHRIST AND HIS FAMILY. HIS LIGHT DRAWS US IN MAKING IT FEEL LIKE WE'VE BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS INTIMATE SCENE.

HOW DOES THIS FRAME ENHANCE THE WORK AND GIVE IT MORE DEPTH?

LOOK AT THE DETAILS ON THIS ELABORATE FRAME. THEY HOLD SIGNIFICANCE IN THEIR SYMBOLISM. HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES:

- DOVE - INDICATES THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY GHOST AT THIS SACRED EVENT
- GOLDEN RAYS OF LIGHT - INDICATES THE PRESENCE OF GOD THE FATHER
- LAUREL LEAVES - REPRESENT VICTORY

ARE THERE ANY SYMBOLS THAT HOLD SIGNIFICANCE TO YOU THIS TIME OF YEAR?



*Now head to the studio where you will create
your own holiday scene!*