



Thanksgiving by Alice Neel



Alice Neel

1900-1984

Alice Neel was an American painter best known for portraits of friends, family, couples, poets, artists, and strangers. Her paintings display an expressionistic use of color and line that captures the inner character of her sitters. Helen Molesworth stated in a Getty Institute podcast, “Neel painted people as she saw them: asymmetrical, eccentric, and filled with life.”

She lived and worked in obscurity for most of her life. With the rise in feminism, Neel gained recognition and eventually fame for her work.

Questions:

- What makes this an atypical Thanksgiving painting? Why do you think Neel opted to show us a “behind the scenes” image of the holiday?
- Where in this painting do you see the artist’s use of line and loose expressionistic painting style?