



**Thanksgiving** by Alice Neel



**Alice Neel**

1900-1984

Alice Neel was an American painter best known for portraits of friends, family, lovers, poets, artists, and strangers. Her paintings display an expressionistic use of color and line that captures the inner character of her sitters. Helen Molesworth in a Getty Institute podcast stated, “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 do we see Neel’s use of line and her loose expressionistic style?