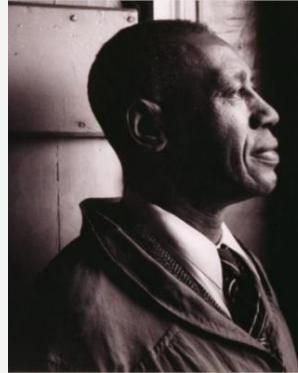




Giving Thanks by Horace Pippin



Horace Pippin

1888-1946

Horace Pippin was an African-American painter. He was born just twenty-three years after the Civil War and the end of slavery. His grandparents were slaves, and his parents were domestic workers. Pippin fought in World War I and his right arm was severely injured. Despite this, he took up painting in his forties. He used bright colors, flat shapes, and straight lines. He did not use shading or perspective. His subject matter was inspired by his childhood and memories from the war. His unschooled work is often labeled folk art. His work allows a unique window into the life and hardships of blacks in America at the time.

Questions:

- While not specifically a Thanksgiving scene, what mood does Pippin capture that relates to the sentiment of the holiday? How do you know?
- What can we tell about the family's home that might be reflective of the black experience of the time?
- What details of this painting suggest he was unschooled?



Love Flies Up to the Sky by Yayoi Kusama



Yayoi Kusama
1929-

Yayoi Kusama is a Japanese contemporary artist best known for her sculpture and installations. Kusama's work also includes painting, performance, film, fashion, poetry, fiction, and more. She has been called 'the princess of polka dots' because it is the common theme in her work. Her repetitive dots and marks allows her to feel as if everything is melting and melding into the bigger universe.

Kusama was solicited to create a float for the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. Her float, **Love Flies Up to the Sky**, is a character drawn from her most recent "My Eternal Soul" series of work.

Questions:

- Can a Macy's day float be considered art. Why or why not?
- Macy's has invited other renowned contemporary artists to contribute to the parade in the past. Does this make contemporary art more accessible or does it commercialize art?



Thanksgiving by Doris Lee



Doris Lee

1905–1983

Doris Lee was an American painter and printmaker during the Depression Era. She was known for figurative images describing rural America and family life. Her idealized folksy images appealed to a public struggling from the hard economic realities of the Depression. This prize-winning painting brought her much attention and recognition leading to two post office murals and commissions for **Life** magazine. Lee found surprising success in the male-dominated art world she lived in.

Questions:

- What devices are used to create a sense of space in this painting?
- What details do you enjoy from this full scene illustrating Thanksgiving?
- How is Thanksgiving similar in your house? And in what ways is it different?



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?