

# VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

## VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP: CLOSE - LOOKING AT ART

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### MOLISSA UDEVITZ, NARRATOR:

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Hi. My name is Molissa, and I'm an educator at the Anchorage Museum. Today, we are going to look at one work of art together in this interactive video. I'm going to ask questions to help you look closely and understand this artwork. I will ask you to pause the video so you have time to discuss your answers with others or write your answers down. You should have a pencil and paper in front of you.

When I ask you to pause the video, you will see this symbol (stop sign), along with the questions, appear on the screen. Let's get started!

We are going to start by doing a short warm-up activity. I'd like you to quickly write or sketch something you love. For example, I love my family, so I'm going to draw the people in my family.

You can pause this video if you need more time. Press play when you are ready to continue.

The artwork we are going to look at today is made of four elements, that, when viewed together, form the entire artwork. We are going to look closely at each of the individual pieces and then view the entire artwork as it is displayed in the Anchorage Museum.

We will start with this artwork. Look carefully from these different angles. Let's answer these three questions together:

- What do you see?
- What do you see that makes you say that?
- What more can you find?

For example, I see a bear. The shape of the head, ears, eyes, and snout make me think it is a bear. I also see bright colors, like blue, red, purple, and yellow. I see spatters of paint, especially around the edges of the canvas.

Pause this video and discuss your answers to these questions with the people around you. Press play when you are ready to continue.

Notice the large bear? It is a grizzly bear, which we can tell from the shape of the animal, especially its nose, and its habitat suggested by the metal tree sculptures rising on either side of the bear.

Did you notice the words across the bottom? They say 'Everything I Love Is Here.' We'll talk more about this phrase in a few moments, but it seems like the artist is sharing his love for something. This is also seen through the vibrant colors and loose brushstrokes.

Now we will move on to another section of this artwork. We will repeat the same close-looking routine. Look carefully and discuss your answers to the same questions:

- What do you see?
- What do you see that makes you say that?
- What more can you find?

Pause this video and discuss with the people around you. Press play when you are ready to continue.

See the two fish? You might identify the fish as salmon, from the shape of the bodies and jaws. The top fish is a humpy, or pink, salmon. The bottom fish is a dog, or chum, salmon. The background colors and lines make it look like the fish are swimming in water.

Above the salmon, we see two birds: an eagle with its large, yellow beak and white head; and a kingfisher with a long, pointed beak and striped tail.



This piece also has words across the bottom that say 'The eyes are good medicine.' This is what the artist's grandmother said when the artist asked her why she included salmon eyes in her soups.

We will now look at the third section of this artwork. You know the routine by now:

Look carefully and discuss your answers to the same questions:

- What do you see?
- What do you see that makes you say that?
- What more can you find?

Pause this video and discuss with the people around you. Press play when you are ready to continue.

See the bird? Its wings are outstretched, and it is suspended from the ceiling, so we know it is flying. The bird is mainly black and white, but if we look carefully, we can see other colors like blue and green. This bird also has a long tail. These characteristics suggest this bird is a magpie. It is the only part of this artwork that is entirely three-dimensional.

We are going to examine the fourth, and final, section of this artwork. Look carefully and discuss your answers to the same questions:

- What do you see?
- What do you see that makes you say that?
- What more can you find?

Pause this video and discuss with the people around you. Press play when you are ready to continue.

At the top of the section a blue-and-yellow float plane looks like it is flying towards us. The propellers appear blurred, as if they are spinning. Words on the side of the plane say 'Kodiak, Alaska Harvey Flying Service.' The words in the lower right corner of the piece say 'There goes Steve Harvey.' This refers to Kodiak pilot Steve Harvey and the common sound of planes in Kodiak.

The plane is flying above the ocean. Notice the wave-like shapes in the water and the seal (which lives in the ocean)? The seal's head is sticking out above the water. Its bold black eyes, nose, and mouth stand out. It also has black spots.

Words next to the seal say 'Papa Eli said seals are one bump, otters are two.' This is the response the artist's grandfather gave when he was asked how to tell a floating seal from an otter. Unlike seals, otters float on their backs, so both their heads and feet stick out above the water.

Now that we've considered each of the four elements separately, let's look at the entire artwork.

What do you notice when viewing all these elements together?

Pause this video and discuss with the people around you. Press play when you are ready to continue.

These elements are part of a single work of art. The bright colors and loose brushstrokes are similar across pieces. Each piece has a three-dimensional, sculptural component. The work was made specifically for this space in the Anchorage Museum. It measures 14 feet tall at its tallest point!

The artist who made this artwork is Alvin Amason. He is Sugpiaq and grew up on Alaska's Kodiak Island where he was surrounded by the ocean and Alaskan animals. These works are drawn from the stories told by his grandparents and his childhood memories. He lives and works in Anchorage today.

This artwork is titled *Everything I Love is Here*.

Does knowing information about the artist and the title change or support what you think about this artwork?

What do you think artist Alvin Amason is trying to say about his relationship to this place?



Pause this video and write or sketch your answers to these questions. Discuss with the people around you. Press play when you are ready to continue.

Alvin Amason's art reflects his connection to Kodiak and his memories from his childhood there. The animals in this art are all found in Kodiak, and Amason has specific memories tied to these animals, such as his grandmother's soups and his grandfather's teaching about how to tell a seal from a sea otter.

Amason believes "the ultimate high occurs when you feel you're walking in your own landscape."

Choose a landscape you love in Alaska. If you were to make your own artwork titled *Everything I Love is Here* about that landscape, what would you include?

I worked on my own *Everything I Love is Here* artwork. I drew mountains with a forest, lake, and meadow. I love hiking, so a trail with footprints goes through the middle. I also like the different seasons we have in Alaska, so I chose to draw one side in winter and one side in summer.

Pause the video and take a few minutes to sketch your own *Everything I Love is Here* artwork. Press play when you are ready to continue.

We would love to see your *Everything I Love is Here* artwork creations. You can share them by tagging @AnchorageMuseum and #AnchorageMuseum on social media or email them to fieldtrips@anchagemuseum.org.

We invite you, your class, or your family to visit the Anchorage Museum. You can use these questions we repeated in this video - What do you see? ; What more can you find? ; and What makes you say that? - to help you examine any work of art or other museum object. We hope to see you soon.

