The Khanenko Museum

Slow Art Day 2022

Post on fb, 12:00

For 12 years museums across the world have celebrated The Day of Unhurried Art Contemplation — Slow Art Day. On this day museum visitors are offered to focus their attention on one or several exhibits, devoting to them much more time than they usually do. The purpose is to slow down in the hustle of daily life, build a deeper personal connection with an artwork, see or comprehend what could scarcely be perceived in a hurry. The creators recommend that one dedicates at least 10 minutes to the contemplation of one piece of art. This amount of time is sufficient for a participant to improve their observational and analytical skills and make an individual discovery.

In recent years Slow Art Day was held online due to the pandemic. This benefited people who were not physically able to visit museums or galleries. Today this format will be of use to us. While the Khanenko Museum’s painting, mounted in a massive frame, is being kept in a safe place, we propose you to take a closer look at its photo on our page.

And think:

Who and what does the painting show? What exactly is going on?

What do you find interesting about the artwork?

What are your personal impressions of the picture?

How do you understand the painting? What was the artist’s idea?

And finally, since we have mentioned a massive wooden frame with glass, is this kind of mounting typical of such pictures?

We invite you for contemplation and discussion!

Please try to look at the artwork for no less than 10 minutes.

We ask you to share your observations (either answering the questions above or not) in comments. You are also free to comment on other participants’ thoughts and exchange ideas with each other — obviously, in a friendly mode only.

At 18 pm we will update this post by adding a short commentary by our curator. She will also be happy to answer all the comments and questions under this post.

#StandwithUkraine

#SupportUkraine

#StandwithUkrainianMuseum

#KhanenkoMuseum

Update to the post, 18:00

Chinese artist of late 19th - early 20th century

An old man and two children

Ink and colors on paper

117 x 54 cm

Inv # 409 ЖВ

This genre painting depicts a magical event. An old man is a wizard or a deity in disguise. He is watching children release bats from a magic gourd. Five bats stand for five kinds of material treasures and five blessings like high virtue and a long peaceful life. Daffodils and plum blossom in a basket by the boys’ side suggest that this miracle happens around Spring Festival, which is the Chinese New Year.

This painting was chosen for contemplation in our museum during the Slow Art Day 2022 on April the 2nd. Despite the war we still want to share it with the world for many to enjoy and feel the blessing of this peaceful activity.

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