Unveiling Stories

This close-looking activity allows the viewer to uncover the many layers of meaning in an artwork.

What is the visible story or overarching theme of the image?

What is the human story or the person-centered experience in this image?

What is the world story? What global issues of today can we connect to this image?

Read the wall label. With that information, what is the new story?

What is the untold story? What are the important absences of the story? What could be happening beyond the flame of this portrait?

Staff picks

left: Shimomura Crossing the Delaware by Roger Shimomura, acrylic on canvas, 2010, gift of Raymond L. Ocampo Jr., Sandra Oleksy Ocampo, and Robert P. Ocampo © Roger Shimomura
right: Treaty of Versailles by John Christen Johansen, oil on canvas, 1919, gift of an anonymous donor, 1926