

5040

Larry Rivers, *July*

Thomas Cole, *The Pic-Nic*

Dominic Carter: The gallery you're standing in is about everyday life at home and out of doors. If you step back from this painting by Larry Rivers, you can see Thomas Cole's *The Pic-Nic* on the gallery wall just to the right of the room divider.

Though very different, both works evoke feelings about leisure, about people getting out and enjoying nature. Larry Rivers's painting seems to be set on the lawn of a residential yard.

Charlotta Kotik: What intrigues me about this piece is really the people. I think it's interesting to look at the way they are looking at you, and they are almost inviting you, pulling you into the piece itself.

Dominic Carter: Now look over to *The Pic-Nic*. Curator Charlotta Kotik notes that Thomas Cole has a different way of pulling viewers into his world.

Charlotta Kotik: You can really wander into the depths of the painting and you are uncovering more and more of the very rich scenes. And the people are rather small in the Thomas Cole and the nature is really commanding the view.

Dominic Carter: Though they're both cheerful pictures, each evokes in its own way the passage of time. Note the sketchiness of Larry Rivers's drawing. It's as if the scene is a fading memory or an old snapshot. The tree stump in the foreground of Thomas Cole's *Pic-Nic* sounds a quiet note of mortality.

What might Larry Rivers think of our comparing his work to Thomas Cole's?

Charlotta Kotik: I think that Thomas Cole is such an important artist, and I think that Larry Rivers is such an intelligent painter, that he would not mind that connection—that on the contrary, I would hope, at least, he would welcome it, because it's a good connection.