

Visual Analysis:

Appreciating a work of art can be more than simply enjoying what you are looking at. Knowing about the art, and maybe about the artist and their intentions, can enhance your experience with it, enabling you to enjoy it more deeply. Try it with the Abidin’s mural, “Aan”. First, look at the image of the artwork on the next page. What do you notice about it? What do you feel as you look at it?¹

Now, re-read the part of the article that describes how “Aan” depicts the Zanj rebellion. Look again at mural. Search for the details the article describes. Can you spot them? Would you have noticed them if you hadn’t first read the article? How does knowing the artist’s intention change your experience of the mural?²

Common Core Standard(s) Met:

CCRA.R.7 Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

1 Answers will vary. Students may notice the absence of bright colors, the wavy lines in the bottom section of the mural, the V-shaped branching object in the center/right.

2 Answers will vary. Likely, students will see the mural very differently now that they have the information from the artist.



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