



Unknown (Rajasthan, Marwar)  
*Nobleman with Attendants Hunting Boar*, ca. 1825–50  
opaque watercolor on paper, heightened with gold and silver  
17 5/16 x 17 1/2 in.  
Bequest of Mrs. Horace W. Frost  
91.15.29

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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In the upper portion of this watercolor, a nobleman rides across a mustard yellow hillside. Other horsemen, smaller in scale and with less opulent clothing, are arrayed beneath him. Armed with swords, lances, and a rifle, they bring down seven boars as their dogs tear into the animals. At upper left, two bearded figures in white ride a camel a safe distance away from the activity in the foreground. The identification of these figures is quixotic, for unlike the hunters, they are unarmed and horseless, and they do not belong to the courtly hierarchy. The nobleman and his clansmen are *kshatriya* (warrior caste) while the camel riders are probably high-caste Hindus or vegetarian Brahmins.



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## DISCUSS

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This painting shows noblemen in a dramatic scene. Look closely and consider: How has the artist created a feeling of drama?

- What's going on in the painting?
- How are the figures and animals arranged on the paper?
- How does your eye move around the picture?
- How has the artist created a sense of movement?

If a figure (animal or human) is looking in a particular direction, we tend to follow that path with our eyes. Similarly, our eyes tend to follow the trajectory of objects that clearly point in one direction or another. How has this artist used these principles in organizing the composition (the arrangement of the parts of the picture)?



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## CREATE

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Generate your own dramatic scene in three dimensions!

First, take a close look at this artist's depiction of a dramatic hunting scene. What strategies does this artist employ to create drama? It can be challenging to design a scene that is both action-packed and visually clear. How does this artist arrange many figures, animals, and weapons? How does the setting help to organize the picture?

Next, gather a shoe box and other drawing and collage supplies (colored paper, glue sticks, markers, fabric, magazines, scissors, or whatever you have on hand).

Create a diorama to show a dramatic scene from a fable, fairy tale, myth, or film. Cover the interior of the shoe box with background elements to establish the setting (trees, buildings, roads, etc.). Then create figures out of heavy paper to add to the scene.

Add a small piece of sticky tack (available at office supply stores) to the bottom of each figure. This will allow you to experiment with different arrangements of figures. You can position and reposition the figures as many times as you like.