Spooky Sightings

A self-guided tour

Philip Evergood
*Portrait of My Mother*
1927–1946

Although some might consider this portrait unflattering, it is actually a loving depiction of the artist’s mother, Flora. Inspired by the beauty of her eyes, Philip Evergood included many details about her, even her favorite pair of high heels. Her ghostly appearance may be due to her death soon after he began the painting, and his continued effort to capture her essence on the canvas over nineteen years.

What details would you include if you were making a portrait of a loved one?

Jorge Damiani
*The Wake*
1959

Jorge Damiani said that his work is about human values such as death, life, suffering, and joy. He hopes that viewers can relate to these universal experiences in his art.

What comes to mind when you look at *The Wake*? Does it feel joyful or sad? Can it be both?

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MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday–Sunday 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Thursday 11:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.
Closed Mondays

For information on tours, programs, and exhibitions, visit DMA.org.
Spooky Sightings

Just as Yayoi Kusama’s seemingly endless pumpkins in the installation *All the Eternal Love I Have for the Pumpkins* remind us of Halloween, several works in the DMA’s collection give off a mysterious vibe. Explore a few eerie, spine-chilling works with this Spooky Sightings tour!

**LEVEL 2**

1. **Adolf Hiremy-Hirschl**  
   **Seaside Cemetery**  
   1897

   Adolf Hiremy-Hirschl created dramatic scenes that suggest an ongoing narrative, or storyline. Here he explored the forces of nature and humanity in the selection of a deathly site next to a lively ocean.

   Create a narrative for this painting and share your ideas with others.

2. **Unknown**  
   **Embroidered skull medallion**  
   17th century

   How do you think this skull was made?  
   (Hint: Look at what materials were used.)  
   The artist used embroidery, a way of stitching that was popular in 17th-century Europe, to decorate furnishings and clothing. Different threads and needlework techniques create the frame and shadows on this medallion—including the skull’s hollow eye sockets.

   Wendy and Emery Reves had this medallion in their house. Why do you think skulls were popular icons in paintings and home decor? Are they still popular today?

3. **Tibet**  
   **Initiation crown with skulls**  
   18th–19th century

   This silk and leather crown would have been worn by young men when they were accepted as monks into a Tibetan Buddhist monastery. The skulls reminded their wearers of the cycle of human life and are part of the preparation for the afterlife.

   How would it feel to wear this crown? What about it might remind the wearer of life?