Looking Closer

Gallery of the Louvre (1831-1833)
Samuel F. B. Morse

Morse may be better known as an inventor, but he began his career as a painter. This exhibition focuses on his 6-by-9 foot masterwork, Gallery of the Louvre. Morse carefully selected works from throughout the Louvre’s galleries and depicted them as though they were hanging together in one of the museum’s rooms.
Did you know?

• In 1836, Morse invented a telegraph system and a language for transmitting text, called the Morse Code.

• It was common for artists to copy other artists’ work to improve their own skills. An artist would register as a “copyist” to paint in the gallery.

• Morse chose and resized 38 paintings. He never explained how he chose the ones that ended up in the final painting.

• The Louvre, also called the Louvre Palace, is one of the world’s largest museums. Located in Paris, France, it was originally built as a fortress for King Philip II in the 12th century.

Can you find these Objects?

• a man painting a landscape

• a tripod easel

• a painting of a ship

YOUR TURN!

As you explore The Huntington’s art galleries, think of what objects you might include if you had an art collection. What makes them your favorites?