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Pedro de Lemos



The Harp of the Winds, Pedro de Lemos. 1925.

Pedro de Lemos comes from a Portuguese family, born in Austin, Nevada. Much of Lemos work has influences from traditional Japanese art. This is evident in many of his

pieces, for example, his piece, “The Harp of the Winds exemplifies the characteristics of traditional Japanese art work. Some of the characteristics that are laced throughout his works is his usage of wood blocking, the movement or the emotion shown from each piece and the appreciation of nature. De lemos was also a many of many talents, and he understood his own artistic capabilities as not a talent but a connection to life itself, “Art is not of the talented, nor is it a luxury for humanity Art can be applied to everything connected with life’s needs and civilization’s comforts”.¹

De Lemos used wood blocking to create this and many of his other pieces. Wood blocking is a technique that is used in most Asian cultures. Some of the earliest wood block prints age back to the 5th century CE in China.² The method of wood block was not only beautiful but convenient for its speed and ease of usage. Artists were able to make a wood block, basically a stamp, and create pieces of art in a much faster time then if each one was hand-painted. However, the actual creation of each wood block took a lot of time, effort and care, but once it was done its usage proved to be far faster than hand-painting alone. For de Lemos, wood blocking was another method of expressing his art. His own home had beautiful wood carving throughout, including delicate archways. Even his interior motif of building his home was enveloped in wood.

In this piece specifically, you can see you de Lemos shows the tree morphed by the wind. The few trees in this piece look as if they are swaying with the wind, or even dancing. Each tree looks like it is in a struggle with the wind, trying to keep itself up but also learning to keep strong as the wind continuously blows on them. Since much of

¹Feuer, Margaret, and Carolyn George. “1931.” *Hacienda De Lemos*, www.pastheritage.org/Articles/deLemos.html.

²Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. “Woodcut.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 25 May 2017, www.britannica.com/art/woodcut.

de Lemos, work was inspired by the central coast of Monterey, I assume these trees are some sort of Eucalyptus. The way in which de Lemos depicted each tree is reminiscent of Japanese Bonsai trees. Many pieces of traditional Japanese art also share this realization/respect of nature.

Lastly, de Lemos shows an appreciation to nature in each of his works. He personifies the trees with movement to show the emotion of each. Which there are four of the same tree in the above picture, each one has its own personality. In my opinion, the trees are personified to be a group together, the biggest one being the leader, facing the wind the most, take the brute for its group. Second, the smaller one behind it seems to be following its leader. Then, the last two in the corner of the piece are rearing the end of its lines, faithfully behind its leader. He is able to personify each element of the piece, even going as far as the ocean's waves. Each wave is different in size, therefore containing its own personality and order. Below, I've shared a few more



“The Cliff Dweller’ (b) | Pedro J. De Lemos.”
Trotter Galleries, Inc., http://www.trottergalleries.com/Art_Images/Medium/



“The Golden Hour’ | Pedro J. De Lemos.” *Trotter Galleries, Inc.*, http://www.trottergalleries.com/Art_Images/Medium/1128.jpg



“The Path to the Sea’ | Pedro J. De Lemos.” *Trotter Galleries, Inc.*, http://www.trottergalleries.com/Art_Images/Medium/2406.jpg

pieces of his work that truly represent his emotions through nature. Starting from the top, the pieces are “The Cliff Dweller”³, “The Golden Hour”⁴ and “The Path to the Sea”⁵. These pieces show de Lemos in his true form. Each tree is grand in size and in movement

In addition to his work that is centered around the trees of California, de Lemos has



“Sleepy Heads’ | Pedro J. De Lemos.”

³“The Cliff Dweller’ (b) | Pedro J. De Lemos.” *Trotter Galleries, Inc.*, http://www.trottergalleries.com/Art_Images/Medium/914.jpg

⁴“The Golden Hour’ | Pedro J. De Lemos.” *Trotter Galleries, Inc.*, http://www.trottergalleries.com/Art_Images/Medium/1128.jpg

⁵“The Path to the Sea’ | Pedro J. De Lemos.” *Trotter Galleries, Inc.*, http://www.trottergalleries.com/Art_Images/Medium/2406.jpg

many pieces with other focal points. For example, the above piece, “Sleepy Heads”⁶. Instead of his typical depictions of movement in trees during the day, de Lemos shows a stillness about the night, with birds. Similar to the tress, each bird has a face that shows its personality. The first bird, is the mother bird watching the night with a cautious eye. Next, the second bird, is one of the children, willing to help protect his nest. After him, the next bird appears to be sleepy and comfortable, feeling safe under her father's protection. Lastly is the father bird, who keeps a watchful eye but with a more alert look on his face. Perhaps, de Lemos depicted this family of birds after his own family.

Furthermore, de Lemos typically uses warm colors in his works, such as bright yellows, bright greens or calm blues. Instead of his typical rainbow, de Lemos uses a piercing blue as the work's focal color. This blue is much different than the blue he uses to depict the ocean in his other works. The boldness of the blue sets the mood for the family of birds, as if to compare to the boldness of the dawn and the seriousness of taking care of one's family. In addition to the bold blue, de Lemos uses a deeper yellow to personify the Sun. Instead of using a bright yellow, de Lemos uses this deep yellow to signify the first few hours of day. Where the sun is still not at its peak. De Lemos is an artist of many faces, he is able to show emotion, movement and personality through his works of art. Through the movement of trees or the emotion on the faces of the birds, de Lemos uses personification through his art.

⁶“Sleepy Heads’ | Pedro J. De Lemos.” Trotter Galleries, Inc.,
http://www.trottergalleries.com/Art_Images/Medium/2536.jpg

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