

Virtual Visit: Outline

Paul Scott

New American Scenery, 2019

Content Areas

Social Studies, History, Visual Art, English/Language Arts

Essential Question

Why is contemporary English artist Paul Scott interested in a ceramic technique and imagery from the 1700–1800s? How does he work with transferware to comment on environmental issues and systemic racism in the United States?

Overview

A museum educator presents the exhibit *Raid the Icebox Now: New American Scenery* by English artist Paul Scott. Students are introduced to the genre of landscape through a comparison of a photograph by Scott with a 1828 landscape painting by English-American artist Thomas Cole. We hear briefly about the complex global history of blue and white ceramics, then learn about how transferware is made and about its cultural context. The educator shares examples of transferware plates by Scott, presenting landscape scenes that include uranium glass, a deadly material. Scott's works are discussed as critiques of environmental and systemic racism in the Navajo nation and in Flint, Michigan. Next students are asked to think about, research and write about an environmental health issue and possible solutions in the city or town they live in. Finally students design their own souvenir plate to envision a healthy future for all people in their town.

Objectives

- Students will compare artistic styles and artists' choices from the past and present. They will think about how and why artist Paul Scott finds inspiration in 17th and 18th century transferware objects.
- Students will learn about transfer printing on ceramics, a technique used for printing onto three-dimensional objects to make transferware.
- Students will creatively connect to content around human and environmental health by designing an original plate featuring imagined scenes of a future version of their town or city.

Materials

Blank paper and a pencil. Optional: colored pencils, printer.

Key Terms

- Contemporary
- Transferware
- Transferprinting
- Uranium glass, uranium
- Lead
- Systemic racism
- Environmental health

Discussion/Support

Teachers can support students by checking for comprehension and prompting students to reflect and respond to questions asked during the virtual visit. They can assist students to complete the assignment and help students share their work with each other. Work can be shared online (#RISDMuseum #museumfromhome #TeachingwithArt) or with the RISD Museum at teachers@risd.edu.

Evaluation of Student Work

Students will write about or discuss questions posed by the educator. Students will consider an issue related to environmental health and safety in their community. The takeaway assignment is to design a souvenir plate featuring scenes from a future version of their own town or city where human and environmental health are flourishing.

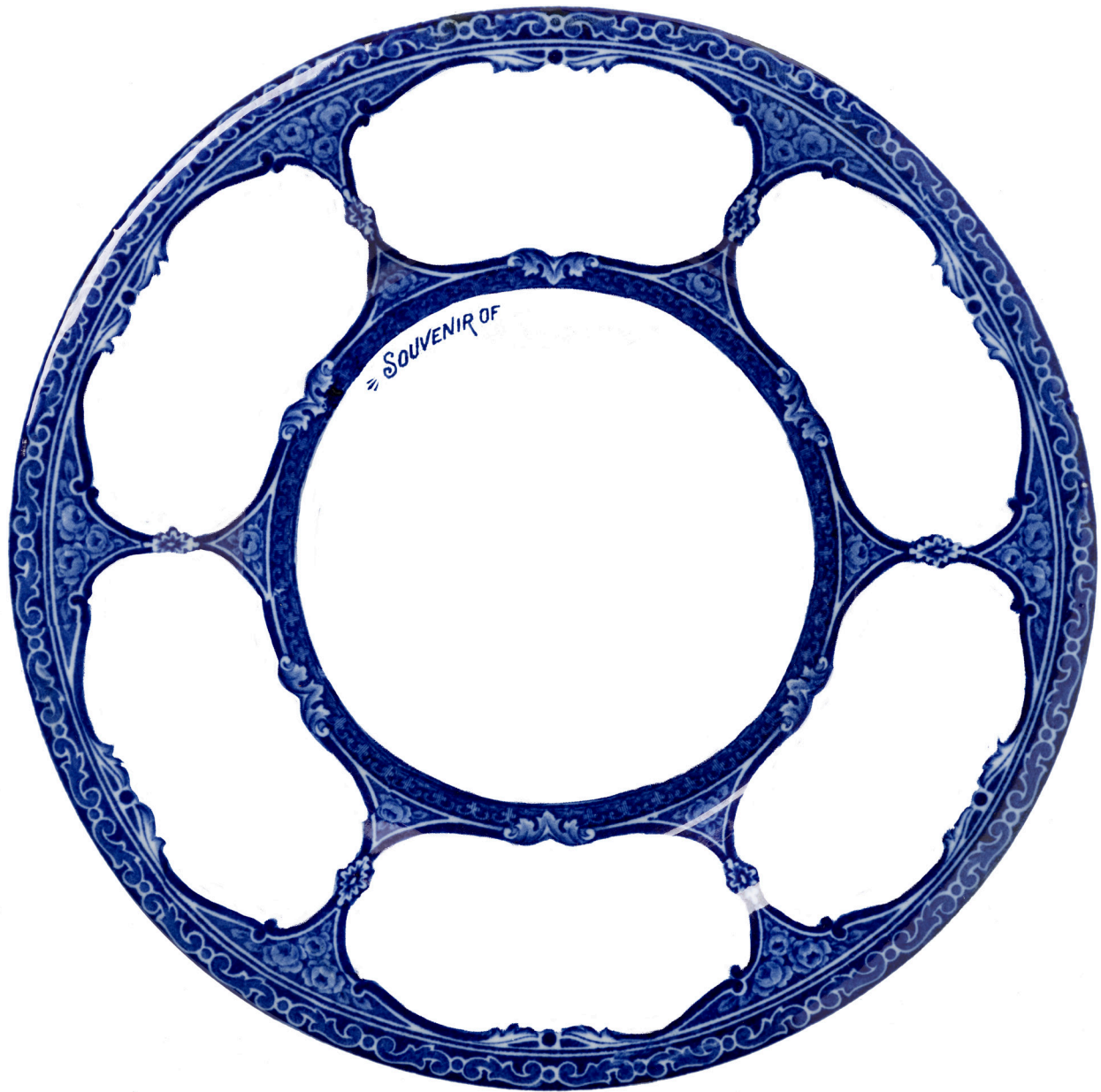
Discussion Questions and Prompts

What two things are similar about these artworks? How about two differences?

A lot of transferware plates and pottery depicted places, buildings, and landscapes. What other similarities do you notice in these two examples?

What issues related to environmental health and safety are present in your town or city? Are there efforts to solve or lessen the impacts of that issue? If so, what are they? If not, what ideas do you have?

Imagine we are 100 years in the future. In this future, people have worked hard to improve the health of all people and the environment. Design a souvenir plate for your town or city. Draw a few specific scenes that show what a healthy future could look like in those places.



Works in this Lesson

Landscape near Cove, AZ. Photograph by Paul Scott.

Thomas Cole, [*Landscape \(Landscape with Tree Trunks\)*](#), 1828.

[Silk Road](#). Image by Belsky. Wikimedia Commons.

William Guy Wall, [*New York from Brooklyn Heights Plate*](#), ca. 1825.

Joseph Stubbs, [Boston State House](#), ca. 1827.

Photographs of process courtesy of Paul Scott.

Work in Process / Andrew Raftery on Creating a Ceramic Decal for Transferware:

<https://vimeo.com/198099794>

Paul Scott, New American Scenery, Raid the Icebox digital publication

<http://publications.risdmuseum.org/raid-icebox-now/paul-scott-new-american-scenery>

Paul Scott, *Souvenir of Shiprock*, 2019, salvaged Syracuse China with pearlware glaze, in-glaze screenprint decal, and uranium glass. Courtesy of Alturas Foundation, San Antonio, TX TL125.2019.34. Photograph © John Polak.

Process photograph by Paul Scott for *The Uranium Series No 1 Mesa No: 1 Mine Road, Cove, Az.*, 2019.

Paul Scott, *The Uranium Series No 1 Mesa No: 1 Mine Road, Cove, Az.*, 2019, pearlware shell-edge platter (ca. 1840) with in-glaze screenprint decal and uranium glass. Courtesy of Alturas Foundation, San Antonio, TX TL125.2019.16. Photograph © John Polak.

Paul Scott, *Flint, near Detroit*, 2019, salvaged Syracuse China plate with pearlware glaze, in-glaze screenprint decal, and melted lead. Courtesy of Alturas Foundation, San Antonio, TX TL125.2019.30. Photograph © John Polak.

Rowland and Marsellus, [*Transferware Plate with Scenes of Providence*](#), 1894.

More Activities and Resources

Teaching Notes: [Imagining the Americas](#)

[Virtual Visit](#): Thomas Cole, *Landscape (Landscape with Tree Trunks)*, 1828

Article including videos with Paul Scott: [New American Scenery](#)

Exhibit and information about objects:

[Raid the Icebox Now with Paul Scott: New American Scenery](#)

Video: [Raid the Icebox Now](#)