

# GREEN



**Nerman Museum** of Contemporary Art • Johnson County Community College





**Christopher Brown** (American, b. 1951)

*The Bystander*, 1994

Oil on linen, 88 x 88"

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 1994.01

Gift of JCCC Gallery Associates

Born in Cape Lejeune, North Carolina, Christopher Brown lives and works in California's bay area. He received an MFA from the University of California, Davis, and a BFA from the University of Illinois. His work was included in the 1992 exhibition *Two Bay Area Artists* in the JCCC Gallery of Art. In his large paintings, Chris paints people from historic events. This one shows Abraham Zapruder holding a video recorder, and it is based on a photograph. Because of his blurry style, Chris's paintings seem dreamlike. The people are in a mysterious setting.

- Other than the different greens, what colors do you see?
- The artist made a grid of horizontal and vertical lines, didn't he?
- Did the artist create a sense of deep space, or does everything seem close to the surface?
- This looks like the same person painted over and over again, doesn't it?
- Besides the figures, what else has the artist repeated?
- Typically in a landscape, we see something in the foreground, middle and background. How would you describe the sense of space here?
- How would you describe the surface texture?
- What kind of mood does this painting have?



**Barry Flanagan** (British, b. 1941-d. 2009)

*Hare and Bell*, 1988

Bronze, 138 x 72 x 108"

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 1995.61

Gift of Marti and Tony Oppenheimer and the Jules and Doris Stein Foundation

Barry Flanagan studied at Birmingham College of Art and Crafts from 1957 to 1958 and at Saint Martin's School of Art, London, from 1964 to 1966, where he earned a Vocational Diploma in Sculpture. Barry liked to make sculptures of animals instead of humans, who we usually see in bronze statuary. Some of Barry's animals take on human qualities as they dance, balance, and box. This hare is leaping like a real animal. *Hare and Bell* combines opposite ideas like serious and silly, and the artist was following traditions and experimenting at the same time.

- This is an unusual combination of forms, isn't it?
- Is the surface texture of the bell smooth or rough?
- Besides the smooth texture of the bell, what other textures do you see?
- What about the hare is life-like?
- What is imaginary?
- What kind of monument or building do you usually think of when you see a big bronze bell?
- Does this bell work, or is it made to stay still?
- What do the three legs remind you of?