Map of The R.W. Norton Art Gallery

The X tells where the art piece is located in the gallery.
Glacier in Alaska
Peter Ellenshaw
1991
Oil on canvas
30 x 48in
Peter Ellenshaw painting mattes for Disney’s *20,000 leagues*

- Got his artistic start working as a matte artist in British movies
- Came to America to work for Walt Disney
- Won Oscars for art direction in *Mary Poppins* and *The Black Hole*

**Peter Ellenshaw**

- **NAME:** William Samuel Cook “Peter” Ellenshaw
- **ARTISTIC MEDIUM:** Painter
- **BIRTH:** 24 May 1913, London, England
- **DEATH:** 12 February 2007, Santa Barbara, California
Peter Ellenshaw was given the title “Disney Legend” in 1993 for his work as a matte artist for Disney from 1950 to 1979.

A matte artist paints background landscape and scenery on glass so that it looks like the actors are in a different location than they actually are.

Among the movies he worked on were Treasure Island, Old Yeller, Swiss Family Robinson, and Darby O’Gill and the Little People.

After he retired from Disney, Ellenshaw traveled the world, painting landscapes of his favorite locations.
Some people think Ellenshaw’s work is an example of “photorealism”. Do you think this is true? Why or why not?
Photorealism describes a style of painting in which the artist attempts to replicate an image from a photograph in meticulous detail. As a movement, it sometimes is also referred to as Superrealism or Hyperrealism.
Can you locate the object in the painting that gives the glaciers a sense of scale?
• Zoom into the small fishing boat.
• Models, architectural plans, maps and paintings/drawings all use scale to create the illusion of correct size relationships between objects and figures.
• What difference would it make to the scale of the Glacier if he had painted the boat as a larger vessel, like a cruise ship that regularly visits Alaska?
“The wonderful thing in painting is that one can never reach the peak of one’s endeavor.”
Peter Ellenshaw

Thoughts to Consider:
1. How does Ellenshaw express the immensity of the Himalayas in this painting?
2. Can you located the Monastery? Would knowing that it is the size of a 3 story house change your perception of the scale of the Himalayan Mountains?
3. Do you think this painting reflects Nepal’s nickname as “the roof of the world”? Why or why not?
• smART Works website

• R.W. Norton Art Gallery website information