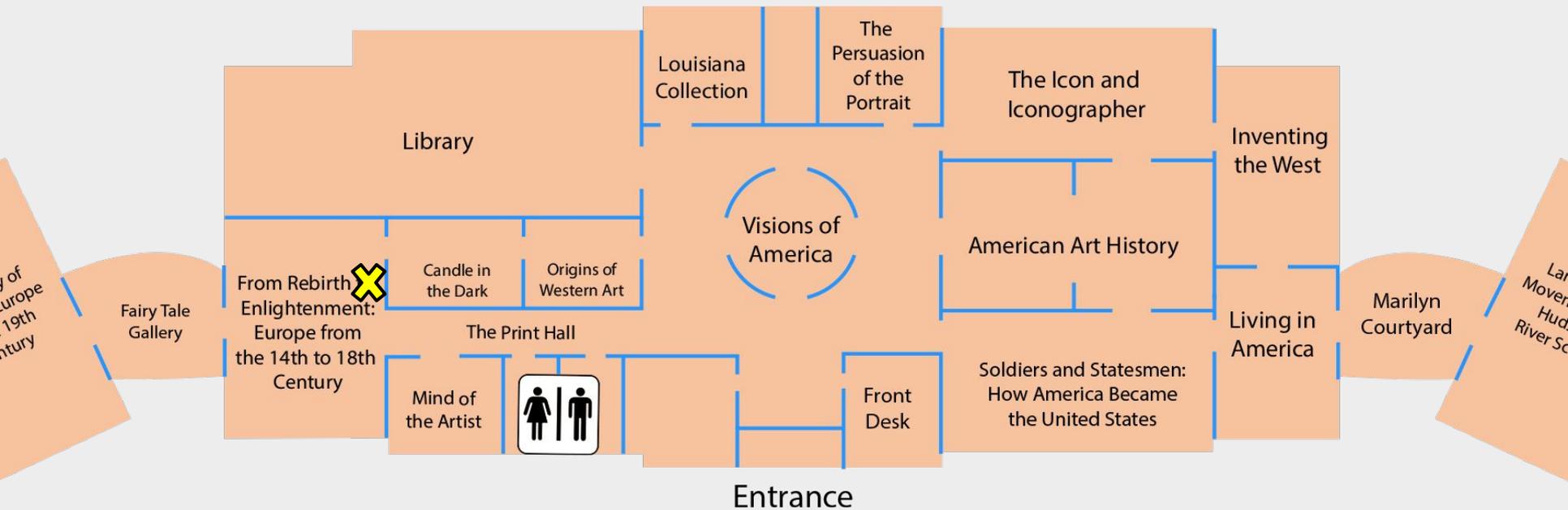


TRAPPER'S LAST STAND



Map of The R.W. Norton Art Gallery



The **X** tells where the art piece is located in the gallery.

TRAPPER'S LAST STAND



Trapper's Last Stand

Charles M. Russell

1899

Oil on canvas

48 x 72in (122 x 183cm)

Charles M. Russell

- ARTISTIC MEDIUM: Painting & Sculpture
- BIRTH DATE: 19 March 1864
- DEATH DATE: 24 October 1926
- PLACE OF BIRTH: St. Louis, Missouri
- Created his first sculpture at the age of 12
- Left school at age 16 to work at a sheep ranch in Montana
- Famous for iconic Western art



Self-portrait: Charles Russell, Standing Beside His Horse Grey Eagle

Charles M. Russell

- A native of St. Louis, Russell started his career as a “cowboy” artist after arriving in Montana when he was sixteen years old.
- Beginning in 1888, Russell spent a period of time living with the Blood Indians, a branch of the Blackfeet Nation.
- His work was noted for showing well-known events from the Native American perspective.
- Along with working as a cowhand, he occupied his time sketching the scenes of late 19th- century Montana. At the time of his death, Russell’s work included 4000 sketches, oils, watercolors, sculptures, and illustrated letters.

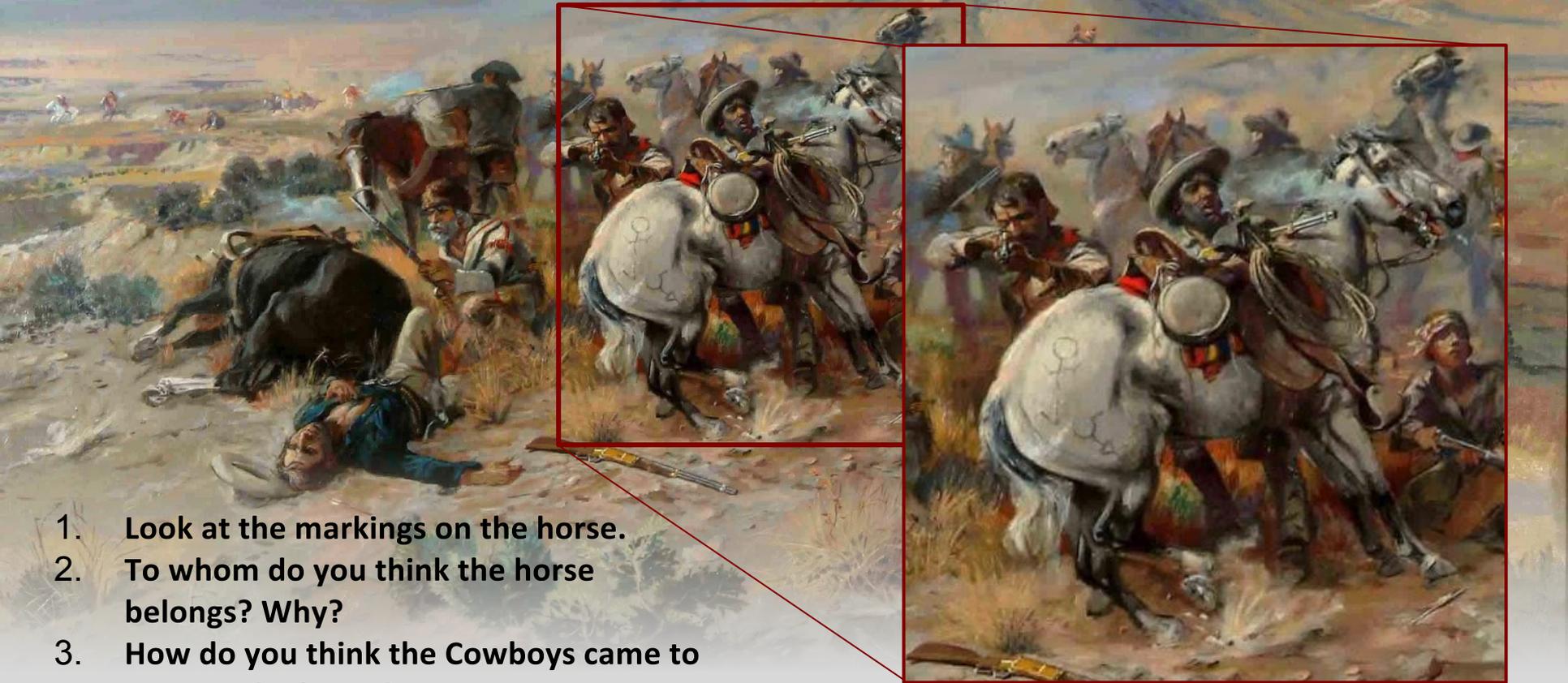


Self-portrait: Charles Russell
Whitney Western Art Museum

1. Why do you think the Native Americans in this painting are attacking the cowboys?



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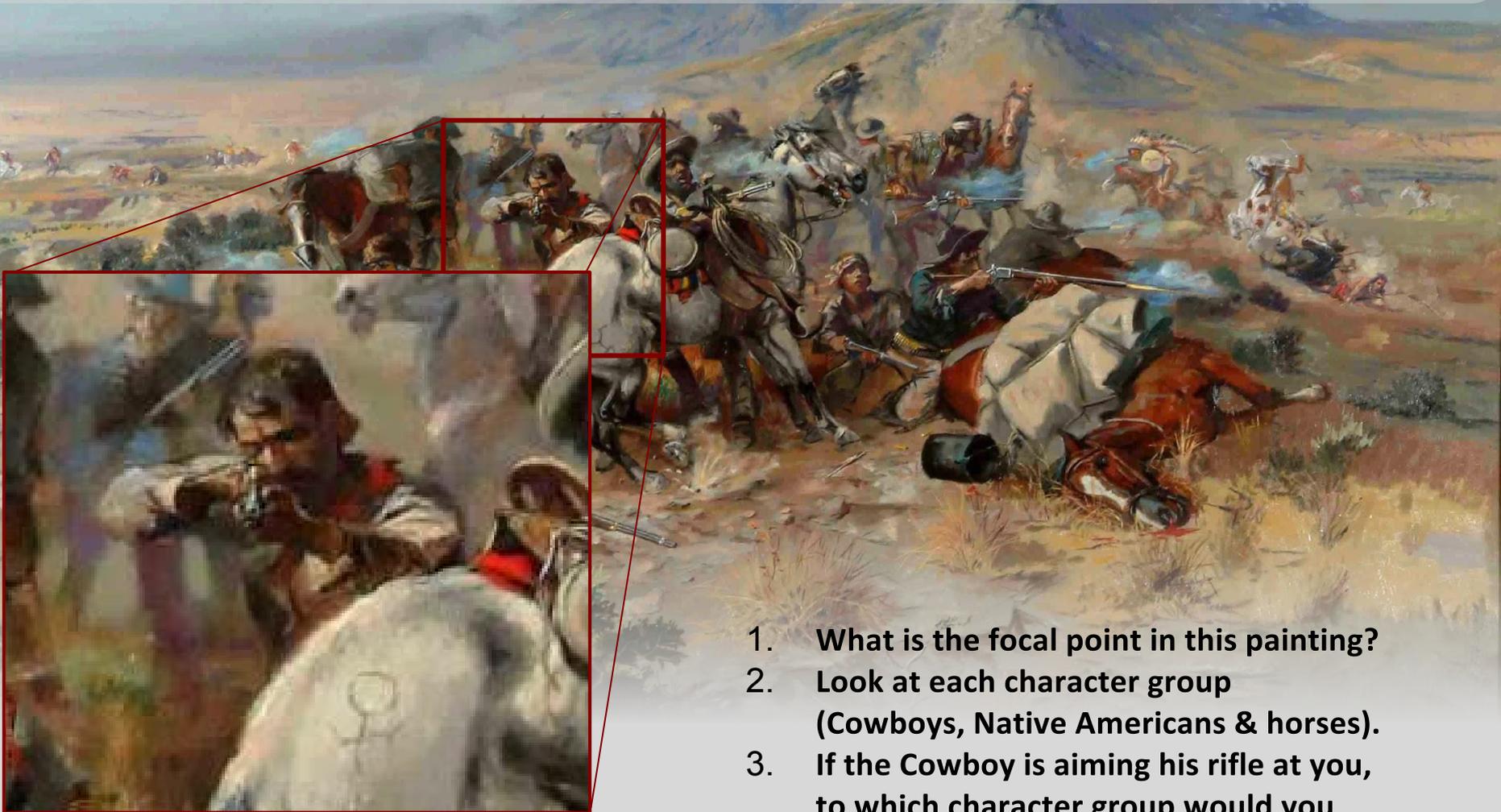


1. Look at the markings on the horse.
2. To whom do you think the horse belongs? Why?
3. How do you think the Cowboys came to possess the horse?
4. Who is Charles Russell portraying as the enemies?

2. If Charles Russell were trying to paint you as a character in this painting who would you be?



2. If Charles Russell were trying to paint you as a character in this painting who would you be?



1. What is the focal point in this painting?
2. Look at each character group (Cowboys, Native Americans & horses).
3. If the Cowboy is aiming his rifle at you, to which character group would you feel you belong? Why?

***"We want no white men here. The Black hills belong to me.
If the white try to take them, I will fight."
Tatanka Yotanka (Sitting Bull)***



Charles M. Russell, *Trapper's Last Stand*

Thoughts to Consider:

1. How do the Native Americans feel about the foreign invaders on their land?
2. If you had something taken or stolen from you, would you fight for it? Can you list things that can be taken or stolen from someone?
3. Depending on what was taken or stolen, would there be a difference in how you would respond?



Charles M. Russell, *Where Fools Build Fires*

Thoughts to Consider:

1. What do you think the members of this Native American scouting party are pondering?
2. Considering the title, who is Charles Russell portraying as “Fools”? How would you support your answer?

Additional ARTy Facts

- smART Works website
- R.W. Norton Art Gallery website information