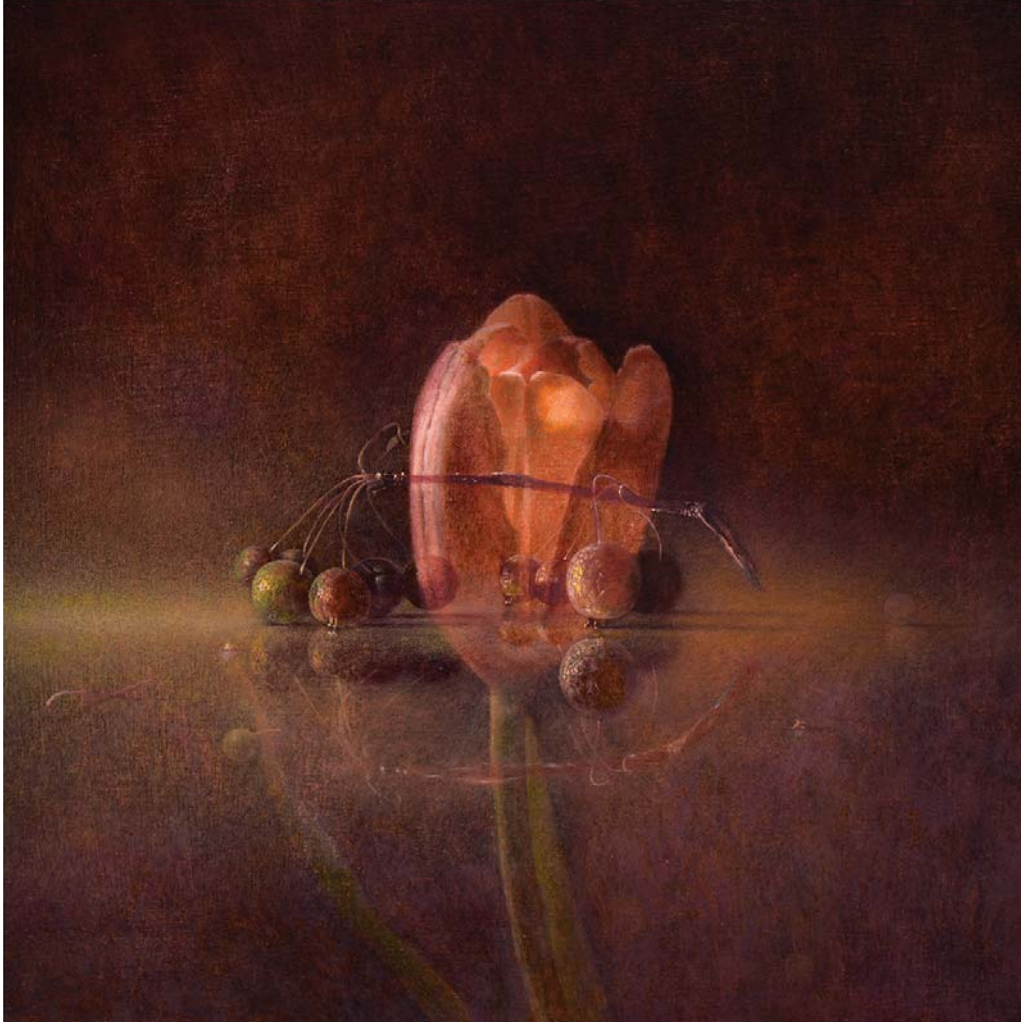


Living in Two Planes
A Meditation based on "Tulip and Berries" by Philip R. Jackson

T. M. Moore



"Tulip and Berries," by Philip R. Jackson

Observation

Describe each of the objects in this painting, in terms of name, color, and relationship to each other. How do you feel about the overall color scheme of this painting? What kind of mood does it evoke in you?

The surface on which the berries rest is the horizontal plane of the painting. How can you see that from the berries?

The tulip, however, is not *reflected on* the horizontal plane., but seems to *emerge through* it and *into it*. How would you describe the tulip's relationship to the horizontal?

Explanation

If the berries represent things in time, things on the surface or plane where we normally experience them, what can we say about these berries? Would you describe them as beautiful, or has having beauty? Why or why not?

The tulip is both *in* time as the berries know it, and *beneath* or *through* time, as if from *some other kind of time*. What other kind of time might that be? Is anything suggested by the fact that we can see the berries *through* the tulip?

The tulip seems to be of a substance *like* the berries, but *not like* them. Explain.

Note also that the tulip bears light within it. Can you offer any thoughts about what this might signify?

Association

Is there a story in this painting? That is, do the objects encourage us to think in a particular way about what they might be doing or representing?

Philip R. Jackson paints from within the framework of a Christian worldview, and Christian themes frequently show up in his work. Does the “story” suggested by this painting bring to mind any spiritual issues or theological truths?

Meditate on Hebrews 12.1, Revelation 4.1, Acts 7.55, 56, and Psalm 110. Each of these suggests two different “planes” where things exist. Explain.

Does Philip R. Jackson’s painting echo anything taught in these passages?

Meditate on and sing Psalm 110, as indicated:

Psalm 110

Tune: Aurelia – “The Church’s One Foundation”

vv. 1-3

“Sit by Me at My right hand,”
The Lord says to my Lord,
“Until I make Your foot stand
On all who hate Your Word.”
From in His Church the Savior
Rules all His enemies;
While those who know His favor
Go forth the Lord to please.

vv. 3, 4

Filled with the Spirit’s power,
In holy robes of love,
From early morning’s hour
They serve their Lord above.
Christ reigns a priest forever,
The King of Righteousness
And King of Peace who ever
His chosen ones will bless.

vv. 5-7

The Lord at Your right hand, Lord,
In wrath shall shatter kings,
When judgment by His strong Word
He to the nations brings.
Then, all His foes defeated,
He takes His hard-won rest,
In glorious triumph seated
With us, redeemed and blest!

How does this psalm lead us to think about life on two planes of existence?

Interpretation

How does this painting encourage you in your Christian approach to the world and life?

Take-away

What's your primary take-away from this Meditation on "Tulip and Berries," by Philip R. Jackson?

Does this painting encourage you to look a bit more closely at everyday objects? To think more about the meaning of your Christian life? Explain.

Do Christians live on two planes at once? Explain.

Write a prayer expressing your experience during, and what you have learned from this Meditation:

For information on how to purchase paintings by Philip R. Jackson, visit his website, www.p-jackson.com, and use the contact tab.