

Joseph Patterson Arnold, *Alpine Woods* aka *Valhalla Canyon/Surprise Lake View*, via interview with Jennifer Mayer and Bryan Ricupero, 10.9.15

Birth Year: 1954

Process

Three small studies were done on location, including photographs. The painting was put together based on the references. I did other versions of this piece that did not work as well.

Content

The painting shows two worlds, a view from the sheltered woods looking at the valley floor thousands of feet below. These are some of the last trees you see heading up the Grand Teton on the way to Disappointment Peak--there is great light here. One of Joe Arnold's favorite pieces because it is a unique view he loves. The composition is unusual--the trees are broken up and the rock helps lead you through the piece on the diagonal; there is a direct contrast with the foreground. There are negative shapes and the right side is softer for atmospheric perspective.

Inspiration

The contrast between the mountains and the open valley floor. I try to do things that others haven't done before--this unusual view gives a different perspective. A poem by Hans Kleiber accompanies this image in Joe Arnold's book, *Mountaineer's Dawn: An artist's ascent of the Teton Range*.