

Art Museum Label Vocabulary

Art'scool
Presented by AKG& HIGHMARK



Jehan Georges Vibert

French, 1840-1902

The Marvelous Sauce, ca. 1890

Oil on wood panel

Bequest of Elisabeth H. Gates, 1899

Tombstone

Provides immediate identification of the artist, and the artwork.

Chat label

Provides a short text block explaining the “why” and “how” of an artwork.

Extended Chat

Provides more information about the artist, historical context, and commentary by a museum curator.

Audio Journey

Provides additional information using a QR code that sends you to this stop on a free digital guide.

Jehan Georges Vibert is best known for his satirical depictions of clerical life. In *The Marvelous Sauce*, a Cardinal-turned-cook proudly presents a skeptical chef with his culinary achievement. The wealth of the Cardinal's household is immediately apparent in this extravagant kitchen, with its copper pots, large cast-iron stove, and decorative stone hood. A coat of arms on the stove's side suggests his aristocratic lineage. Vibert highlights the Cardinal's overt wealth and the chef's disbelief—or dismay—at the sauce as a critique of the Catholic Church, exposing the corruption and hypocrisies of upper-level clergy members.



Victory and Defeat

Audio journey



Listen to thoughts on overconfidence in the kitchen and on the playing field. With former Buffalo Bills running back Thurman Thomas and artist Patti Thomas (“The Ghost”).

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How to Read an Extended Label



Context:

Why or when the artist made it, what was happening historically or personally at the time?

Interpretation:

How the work fits into art history or the artist's style?

Themes:

What ideas or emotions it explores?

Connections:

How it relates to other artwork nearby or in the same exhibition?

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Learning about Art using a Label



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1. Read the Label

Learn basic information:

- Artist's Name
- Nationality, life dates
- Title, year or years created
- Materials
- Credit Line

2. Think About the Story

Read the short description or curator's commentary:

- What story or idea is being told?
- What ideas, history, or feelings does it explore?
- What did you learn about the artist?

3. Look Back at the Artwork

Use what you learned from the label to look again:

- What new details do you notice?
- How did the label add to your understanding and interpretation of the work?
- What are you wondering about?

4. Share Your Thoughts

Talk with your friends, classmates, or teachers:

- What new details do you notice?
- How did the label add to your understanding and interpretation of the work?
- What are you wondering about?

5. Ask Questions

If you do not understand the words or ideas on a label, ask for more information. Ask your teachers, a docent, or a Gallery Teacher.

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