Jules Breton (French, 1827–1906), The Vintage at Chateau Lagrange, 1864, oil on canvas, 37⅜ x 67 in. (92.7 x 170.2 cm), Gift of the Friends of Art, 1932.3

About the Artist: Jules Breton (1827–1906) never lost his ties to the peasantry and land of his childhood, drawing lasting inspiration from rural customs and traditions throughout his long career. His formal training in art began in Belgium and was completed in Paris. Breton’s smooth academic style of painting, coupled with his vision of contented workers, appealed greatly to the establishment of the Empire and the Second Republic, and he received a succession of awards and honors.

Joslyn Art Museum

Art Chats

JOSLYN ART MUSEUM

Check out the artwork and the prompts, and start an artful discussion with the people you love. Great for all ages!

Hungry for More

Look:

What’s going on in this picture? What details do you see that make you think that?

Based on what you see, where is this activity taking place? What are these people doing—the folks farther away in the field and those closest to us? What are they carrying?

Do they appear to enjoy their work? What makes you say so?

Discuss:

Talk about some of the words in the title of this painting you may not be familiar with. “Vintage” is a season’s crop of grapes, or a grape harvesting festival, and “chateau” (pronounced sha-toe) is the French term for large country house or mansion. Did you spot the wine-making estate in the distant background? Now that you know the meaning of these words, do you have a different understanding of the painting?