

ART OF DISSSENT



Tree with Balloons, also called Cityscape with Bridge

Themes

- War and peace
- Interconnectedness
- Perspectives

Before the viewing

- During WWII defences against bombings included moored zeppelins and balloons as well as searchlights, radar stations and anti-aircraft guns. What strategies did aircraft have to penetrate these defences?
- What do bridges symbolize in literature, film and in war?
- Not knowing better, how might a child interpret the sights and sounds of war—from a distance?

Discussion

- Who is the figure on the bridge and what is he doing?
- Many things in the painting are connected by means of overlap. Pick out some of the connections and explain their meanings
- Does this painting give the feeling of war or peace? Explain
- How does *Cityscape with Bridge* differ from Fick's other works? To which work is it most closely related?

Activities

- Create a forest of balloon trees in a colour scheme that evokes threat and not playfulness
- Create a night scene where all that is seen clearly is in two beams of light
- Imagine one family living in an apartment in the building in the picture. Describe their thoughts during an air raid

Extensions

- Cologne was one of the heaviest bombed German cities in WWII. Research the extent of the bombings on Cologne, Hamburg and Dresden. Compare these to bombings on Britain
- Fick trained with the glass artist Jan Thorn-Prikker. Select those works you feel most show Fick working with concepts from stained glass. Provide examples
- Look at examples of war art from the Civil War to the present. How does Fick's work fit into that survey?