

A YEAR OF JOURNALING



George Inness, *Sunrise in the Woods*, c. 1887. Oil on canvas. Gift of Frank and Katherine Martucci 2013, 2013.1.6.

THE ART OF MYSTERY

Using dark, saturated colors, the artist captures an ephemeral moment as hazy sunlight filters through a dense forest. More details slowly emerge from the shadows the longer you look.

George Inness was a prominent nineteenth-century landscape painter known for his ability to evoke a sense of the spiritual qualities of the natural environment.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Spend a few minutes looking at the painting. What new details emerge? Can you continue to see more mysteries appear as your eyes adjust to the darkness?

If you haven't looked at the title, would you interpret the scene as a sunrise or a sunset? How does the time of day change your sense of the painting?

What significance do the transitory moments of sunrise and sunset hold for you?

For many people, December can be a time of remembrance, spirituality, and celebration. How do these themes tie into your life as the seasons change and we look forward to a new year?