

You are looking at a high resolution digital reproduction of a painting by the Spanish artist Joan Miró entitled *The Farm*, made in 1921.

What might be happening in this painting?

There's a lot going on in this picture! A large carob tree, filled with curling pods, in the center of the canvas. Footsteps along a path. A barking dog. A woman washing clothes at a trough while a donkey plods around a millstone. There is an open structure occupied by rabbits, a goat, a pigeon, a chicken, a rooster, and a pig! And a farmhouse, its exterior covered in moss and cracks. A horse rests inside and a covered wagon is propped outside.

The foreground is a dry, arid landscape of warm oranges and browns. Buckets, pails, and watering cans litter the yard. A newspaper lies in the dirt. A lizard and snail crawl amid grass, stones, and sticks. Off in the distance, there is a lush, green forest and mountains. Is that a sun or moon in the sky? A baby or a Buddha? Miró leaves us guessing.

This painting is a "portrait" of a cherished place – Joan Miró's family farm in Catalonia. Describing it, he said, "Everything I painted was really there, but I took liberties—I left off the wall of the chicken coop so that one could look inside—and there are lapses in scale. *The Farm* carried minute realism as far as I could take it.... "

Miró said *The Farm* "attempts to summarize the world around me.... *The Farm* was a resume of my entire life in the country. I wanted to put everything I loved about the country into that canvas—from a huge tree to a tiny snail."