

Visual Thought for the Day: 21-27 September 2020 by Nick Hoyle

This week's 'Thoughts' are visual.

Contemplate the image. Then, if you wish, move onto the text and/or link to a piece of music, before returning to the image. If the text or music enhances your experience of the image, fine. Let it be in conversation with what you see. Otherwise, just stay with the image.

Monday



Nicholas Mynheer / Rest on the flight to Egypt, from the Methodist Modern Art Collection © TMCP, used with permission. www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection

Rest on the flight to Egypt

What does this image say to you?

What feelings does it evoke?

Do you fit into this 'story' that's being told visually?

Listen:

[I sat down under his shadow](#)

(skip any ads if you can)

I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

(Song of Songs 2. 3b-4)

Tuesday



Photo: Nick Hoyle

Become that small child drawing back the curtain.

What does it feel like?

Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.
(Joel 2. 28)

Watch the curtain of the ordinary be pulled back here:
[Paschal troparion Beirut \(in Arabic, with subtitles\)](#)
(skip any ads if you can)

Wednesday



Clive Hicks-Jenkins / Christ writes in the dust - the woman taken in adultery, from the Methodist Modern Art Collection © TMCP, used with permission. www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection

This painting shows a charged moment.

There's a lot going on, some of it quite disturbing.

What catches your attention?

Listen:

[Flee as a Bird](#)

(skip any ads if you can)

Thursday



Murano paperweight. Photo: Nick Hoyle

*He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them."
(Genesis 15. 5)*

Are you a stargazer?

Since time immemorial, we've all gazed at the same stars.

Listen:

[Prayer for Travellers](#)

(skip any ads if you can)

Friday



*John Reilly / The Raising of Lazarus,
from the Methodist Modern Art
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used with permission.
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Christ to Lazarus (David Constantine)

They faltered when we came there, and I knew very well
They were already leaving me. Not one
Among your mourners had any stomach to go on,
And when we moved the stone and we could smell

Death in his lair they slid off me like a cloud
And left me shining cold on the open grave
Crying for you and heaving until Death gave
And you were troubled in your mottled shroud.

They hid their eyes, they begged me to let you stay,
But I was adamant, my friend. For soon
By a loving father fiercer than any moon
It will be done to me too, on the third day.

I hauled you out because I wanted to.
I never wept for anyone but you.

Saturday



Paolo Uccello

"The Hunt in the Forest" by [Kotomi](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC 2.0](#)

Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.
(from Psalm 139)

Sunday



Jyoti Sahi / Dalit Madonna, from the Methodist Modern Art Collection
© TMCP, used with permission. www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection

Dalits are at the bottom of the Hindu caste system – its 'Untouchables'.

Can you reconcile that thought with this 'Dalit Madonna' picture?

Listen:

[Black is the colour of my true love's hair](#)

(skip any ads if you can)