



The Mission Inn Art Series: San Juan Hill Painting

HISTORY

Did you know the Mission Inn houses a work of art that features the First U.S. Voluntary Cavalry, led by Theodore Roosevelt? The Mission Inn holds many works of art. One of these famous paintings include the “San Juan Hill” painting.

The “San Juan Hill” painting “features Theodore Roosevelt and his “Rough Riders” in the most famous battle of the Spanish American War”.¹

BATTLE OF SAN JUAN HILL

In June 1898, Santiago de Cuba (modern day Cuba) was a Spanish strong hold. U.S. forces looking to take over the area launched a land and sea attack on Santiago de Cuba. One of the ground troops was led by Theodore Roosevelt and his “Rough Riders”. The “Rough Riders” were “a collection of Western cowboys and Eastern blue bloods officially known as the First U.S. Volunatry Cavalry.”²

SAN JUAN HILL PAINTING

¹ Friends of the Mission Inn. *Historic: Mission Inn*. California: Friends of the Mission Inn, 1998, p. 54.

² History.com. *The Battle of San Juan Hill*. [Website] <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/the-battle-of-san-juan-hill>



The work of art was “painted in 1900 by Russian artist Vasilli V. Vereshchagin”.³ Vereschchagin met Theodore Roosevelt in 1899. Roosevelt recently returned from the Spanish American War and described the battle of San Juan to Vereschchagin. The artist then created a painting of the battle.⁴

In 1900 “the painting was exhibited at the Chicago Institute of Art”. It was purchased by a Northern California art collector. Then in 1917 Frank Miller purchased the painting at an auction in San Francisco and brought to Riverside.⁵

³ Friends of the Mission Inn (1998), p. 53.

⁴ Friends of the Mission Inn (1998), p. 54.

⁵ Friends of the Mission Inn (1998), p. 54.



ACTIVITY

Art has an important impact on our world. Today in honor of the famous paintings featured in the Mission Inn we are going to create our own painting.

Materials:

- Paper or Canvas
- Paint
- Paint brushes
- Old newspaper (to prevent paint from getting on other surfaces)

Directions:

- Use your imagination to paint something awesome!
- Share your painting with us.

Check out our creation!





Content Resources

If you are interested in learning more about the history of the Mission Inn's Spanish Patio, the Anton Clock and the 5 Clock Figures please check out the resources below.

Friends of the Mission Inn. *Historic: Mission Inn*.
California: Friends of the Mission Inn, 1998.

History.com. The Battle of San Juan Hill. [Website]
<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/the-battle-of-san-juan-hill>