



Change of Scenery

Lois Mailou Jones experienced prejudice in the United States based on her race and gender. In 1937, she traveled to France for the first time and discovered a country more racially tolerant than her own. The inclusivity and tranquility of the French landscape beckoned Jones back throughout her life.



Arreau, Hautes-Pyrénées, 1949

Take a closer look

Vibrant green mountains contrast vividly with bold orange buildings in the artist's depiction of the southwestern French village of Arreau. **Loïs Mailou Jones (1905–1998)** applied broad, loose brushstrokes, adding visual energy to the peaceful setting.

Something to talk about

World travel informed the artist's technique, style, and subject matter. How have journeys—near or far, physical or emotional—impacted your perspective?

In her own words

"I can look back on my work and be inspired by France, Haiti, Africa, the Black experience, and Martha's Vineyard (where it all began) and admit: there is no end to creative expression."

Who knew?

Jones influenced notable women artists including Elizabeth Catlett (1915–2012) and Alma Woodsey Thomas (1891–1978), both in the museum's collection.

Loïs Mailou Jones, *Arreau, Hautes-Pyrénées*, 1949; Oil on canvas; 19½ x 23⅝ inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Gladys P. Payne; © Loïs Mailou Jones; Photograph by Lee Stalsworth

