



GARI MELCHERS

HOME & STUDIO



The Fencer, Gari Melchers, 1895, Gari Melchers Home & Studio

LIVING PICTURE

Slowing down to closely observe and describe a work of art can produce surprising results.

A popular method to physically engage with a painting is by creating a *tableaux vivant*, a living picture. Try this activity with Gari Melchers' *The Fencer*.

Pick one person to be the 'model.' All others can be 'artists.' Find similar objects that can be used as props.

Ask the model to stand facing the group. The artists will describe in detail how the fencer is posed, starting with the feet and moving up to the facial expression. Give the model directions on how to achieve a similar stance.

Instruct the model to freeze in the final position for a few moments and then describe how it makes them feel.

Discuss how the model's posture and facial expression reveal clues to the subject's identity. What did everyone discover through this exercise?



**WHICH VERSION DO
YOU LIKE AND WHY?**

