

Before you is John Steuart Curry's painting entitled *Negro Head*. This portrait, painted around 1927, is of the head and shoulders of an African American young man. In this oil on canvas, the young man is larger than he would have been in real life. His profile is the entire subject of the work, which is roughly 24 inches high by 18 inches wide. The young man's head and neck, turned at an angle toward our left, take up about three-quarters of the painting. His large eyes are looking out in the distance to our left.

The background is painted with large brush strokes in warm, silvery-golden colors, which contrast with the young man's dark skin color and accentuate his profile. He has short black, tight curls that closely hug the rounded shape of his head. His smooth, large forehead and thick black eyebrows draw attention to his eyes. Because his head is turned at an angle to our left, we only see about three-quarters of his left eye and his delicate, long, black eye lashes extend into the light background of the painting. His right eye, which we see in its entirety, matches the gaze of the left eye. His eyes are deeply set into his high cheekbones and draw us in. His lips are closed and his facial expression is relaxed. We see only the shoulders and opened collar of his gold-colored shirt.

The portrait is set in a tiered Art Deco-style frame, which repeats the same silvery-golden tones of the painting's background. John Steuart Curry, an American painter, lived between 1897 and 1946. The Memorial Art Gallery acquired the painting in 2005 thanks to the Marion Stratton Gould Fund.

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