Form
Atmospheric perspective and tiny human figures both create a sense of monumentality and awe of nature.

Viewer stands above the mountains; looks down to survey the scene.

Combines Romanticism styling with Realism and historical allegories

Function
Showcases the rolling red hills, magnificent blue skies, puffy white clouds, the lake, trees, and natural beauty of the Valley of Mexico

To glorify the Mexican countryside by adding imagery of pre-Hispanic and contemporary symbols

Context
Velasco was an academic landscape painter, specializing in panoramas of the Valley of Mexico

Velasco meticulously observed nature: rocks, foliage, clouds, waterfalls

Rejected the realistic landscapes of Courbet and Romantic landscapes of Turner

Content:
There is so much packed into this painting, please see the Smarthistory video.