118. THE VALLEY OF MEXICO FROM THE HILLSIDE OF SANTA ISABEL (EL VALLE DE MÉXICO DESDE EL CERRO DE SANTA ISABEL). JOSE MARÍA VELASCO. 1882 C.E. OIL ON CANVAS.
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
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.
There is a lot packed into this painting, watch the Smarthistory video to learn about it all.