

Tanner, Henry Ossawa (1859-1937)
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania but raised
mostly in Philadelphia

EDUCATION/INFLUENCES

- Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (studied with Eakins who introduced him to photography), Academie Julien in Paris.
- Kept more traditional realistic style but influenced by Symbolist spiritualism and Impressionist color
- Spiritual upbringing-father was Methodist-Episcopal minister; family affluent and well-educated African-Americans.

BIG IDEAS/THEMES

- Best known for his biblical subjects- they are allegorical and psychological but also Christian subjects and characters with universal appeal. Strong sense of modeling, psychological penetration, fairly free handling of paint, jewel-like colors.
- Primarily worked in Paris because there he felt that he could work without reference to race.

KIA WORK-*The Visitation*, oil on canvas, ca. 1890-1900

- Biblical story of the meeting between Mary and Elizabeth. Elizabeth raises her hands in surprise as she feels her baby, John the Baptist kick her in the presence of Jesus Christ. Mary is coming to tell Elizabeth of her pregnancy.
- Soft colors, rounded forms, balanced composition of an accomplished realist artist. Wonderful still life on the table. Figures strongly modeled by light.

