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**Zion National Park: A Century of Views***For 100 years, Zion National Park**has captivated visitors and motivated park-goers to discover unique ways to showcase its magnificence and charm. In a world full of ever-changing technology, the process in which people have chosen to capture their experience at Zion has evolved over the years, but the inspiration itself stems from a shared human experience: the desire to connect with nature. By exploring the various forms of artistic expression in which people have paid homage to Zion, we continue the legacy of celebrating its history while simultaneously protecting the future of the park. By preserving the natural landscape, we can ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to experience and share their own narratives in relationship to this iconic destination.*

**Petroglyphs:
(1000 AD)
Petroglyphs** are prehistoric images that have been carved directly into the stone with sharp tools and often depict significant historical events, stories, or religious symbolism. Petroglyphs from various tribes and cultures can be found throughout the landscapes of Southern Utah. This ancient art form has miraculously survived for hundreds of years. However, the existence of many of these glyphs are currently under threat of vandalism and the increasing numbers of visitors inclined to touch the rock, which can permanently damage the images.

**Stereoscopic Images:
(1870 – 1920)**

**Stereoscopic images**consist of two separate photographs taken simultaneously, creating the illusion of a 3D effect when viewed through the use of special glasses or projector. The pictures are almost identical, yet slightly offset. When paired with one another, they come together to produce the appearance of depth. This mimics how we as humans perceive depth, using our eyes. Our left and right eyes take a simultaneous yet slightly offset picture of the world around us, and this helps us navigate. This is how we are able to calculate depth and speed in an instant.

**Lantern Slides:
(17th - mid-20th century)
Lantern slides** are a type of viewing device in which vibrant, hand-painted, printed, or photographic images are transferred to a glass slide and then projected through a device, originally known as a “magic lantern.” Lantern slides have often been used for classroom lessons, art exhibitions, and public entertainment. With the advancement of this technology, mechanical slides were eventually produced using two sheets of glass in order to portray more complex, moving, and animated images.

**WPA Travel Posters**

**(1930s and 1940s)
The WPA (Works Project Administration)** was a program created under Franklin D. Roosevelt’s administration to help unemployed citizens during the Great Depression. Under the Federal Arts Project, thousands of artists were hired to create a collection of posters to help publicize and promote various subjects. The WPA Travel Posters that were famously used to highlight multiple national parks across the nation became highly iconic and collectible. Doug Leen, also known as “Ranger Doug” began tracking down some of the original WPA posters and developed a passion for collecting, restoring, and reproducing many of these lost and forgotten treasures. The historic poster found in the Zion exhibit was provided courtesy of Ranger Doug.

**Painters, Photographers, & Musicians:**Painters, Photographers, & Musiciansoften draw inspiration for their perspective art forms, from an impactful experience they have gained while connecting with the natural world around them. In this exhibit, we feature artwork from a watercolorist, acrylic painter, and a musician/lyricist.

**Panoramic Photographs:**

**(1950’s – present)**

In simplest terms, a panorama is a wide-angle shot of any particular scene. It’s longer than a typical photo and covers more space. These modern panoramic photos were taken using two different methods:

1. *Zion Canyon from Observation Point, Utah* (2021).
The first method of creating modern panoramas is to use a specialized camera that takes 360 pictures in a single take. The area here, in front of you over the canyon, was extracted from an entire 360 world sphere by breaking the captured image into planes. Compare this photo and the technique to the stereographic photo (also in this exhibit) taken of this spot in the 1940s.

2. *Plein Air painter Roland Lee from Pine Creek, Utah* (2021).
The second method commonly used to create modern panoramic photos is to use a regular camera that takes a series of shots, section by section of an area while “panning” which is to move the camera from one side to another along an even plane or x-axis. This panorama was photographed by a camera that takes a series of shots in this fashion and then uses software to “stitch” or sew the pixels of the image together where they overlap, resulting in a high resolution and extremely wide image capture of a place.

 **Modern Stereoscopic Spherical Video (Virtual Reality):
(1950’s – present)**Spherical video and images allows you not just to watch, but to look around and experience the scene as if you were there. While older images present a snapshot to the front of the viewer, spherical videos capture the world in all 360 degrees around you. This gives you the freedom to look around the scene in every direction-behind you, above you, below you and to the left and right. This experience is particularly immersive in a Virtual Reality headset.

Stereoscopic video, often called “3D” video gives a sense of depth that you won’t get in 360-degree video alone. The camera captures two 360 images for every single frame of video, with an algorithmic offset for the left and right eye, in the same way as the stereoscopic photographic images of the 1940s. This increased sense of depth leads to the feeling of being present in the scene as if you are standing there. This sense of being immersed in a scene is especially apparent when viewing this type of image through a Virtual Reality or “VR” headset.
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If you listen carefully, you will notice that these spherical videos also have 360 "spatial” sound with headtracking. This means that wherever you hear something, and you turn to see it, the sound of that object will not rotate as you turn your head, but stay where you expect to hear it, as does the sound we hear in real life. If you turn away from it it will sound behind you, if you turn toward it it will sound in front of you. So not only are you seeing Zion in 360, but you are hearing what it is like to be there.

**Smart Phones and Selfies
(2000’s)**The invention of the smart phone has made sharing one’s own candid experiences and unique perspectives of Zion National Park easy and immediate. These devices have allowed people to capture nature more spontaneously, while also providing a way for these experiences to be widely enjoyed and shared instantly within their own local social communities and beyond. The familiar, human element paired with the backdrop of such a grandiose natural landscape, is an impactful way to document and share these special memories with others.

 **Questions to ask yourself:**

1. What form of art and/or technology have I used or been inspired to try when exploring nature? Is it different from the forms featured in this particular exhibit?
2. What role do different expressions of art play in the future of our treasured landscapes to help keep them protected?
3. Is there a piece of art in this exhibit that inspireds me to visit Zion National Park?
4. How has this exhibit helped me understand the history of Zion and the importance of preserving that history for future visitors?
5. What are some steps that I can take to help protect Zion, and other national parks in Utah?
6. What have a I learned that I didn’t know or understand before visiting the Zion exhibit, and how has this new information motivated me to get involved?

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