



Cortes' Invasion of Mexico (Cortes Before Tenochtitlan)

Date

1846

Primary Maker

Peter Frederick Rothermel

Medium

oil on canvas

Description

Rothermel's didactic painting recalls the invasion of Mexico in 1519 by the Spanish conquistador Cortes. Accompanied by an impressive retinue of men, artillery, ships, and horses, Cortes, who first landed in Vera Cruz, was received as a god by the native population. After conquering several independent republics, he set out through the interior for the Aztec capital, Tenochtitlan, with 600 natives as well as a small force of Spaniards. Believed to be a descendent of the sun, he was received with great honor by the great Aztec leader, Montezuma.

Dimensions

Sight: 36 1/2 x 47 1/2 in. (92.7 x 120.7 cm) Framed: 42 5/8 x 53 3/4 x 2 1/2 in. (108.3 x 136.5 x 6.4 cm)