

Poetry Deep Looking

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1 Overview

Poetry Deep Looking is an interactive web application that pairs visual art with poetry. Users explore paintings by hovering over segmented regions, each of which reveals a contextually matched poem excerpt. The application uses AI-generated segmentation masks (via Google Gemini Pro) to map artwork regions to poems.

2 Gallery

The application opens with a gallery of artwork thumbnails. Each card shows the painting and its attribution. Clicking a card opens the interactive viewer.

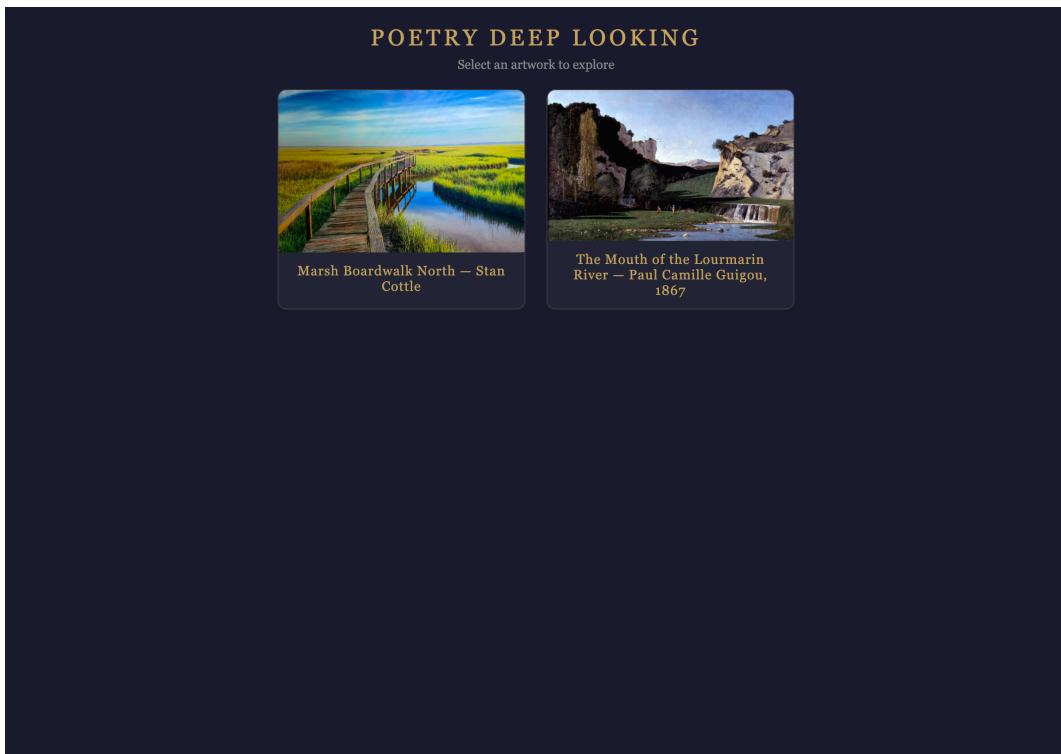


Figure 1: Gallery screen showing two artworks: *Marsh Boardwalk North* by Stan Cottle and *The Mouth of the Lourmarin River* by Paul Camille Guigou (1867).

3 Hover Interaction

In the viewer, moving the cursor over a recognized region displays a popup with the poem title, poet name, a generated illustration, and a highlighted excerpt. The popup follows the cursor and updates as the user moves between regions.

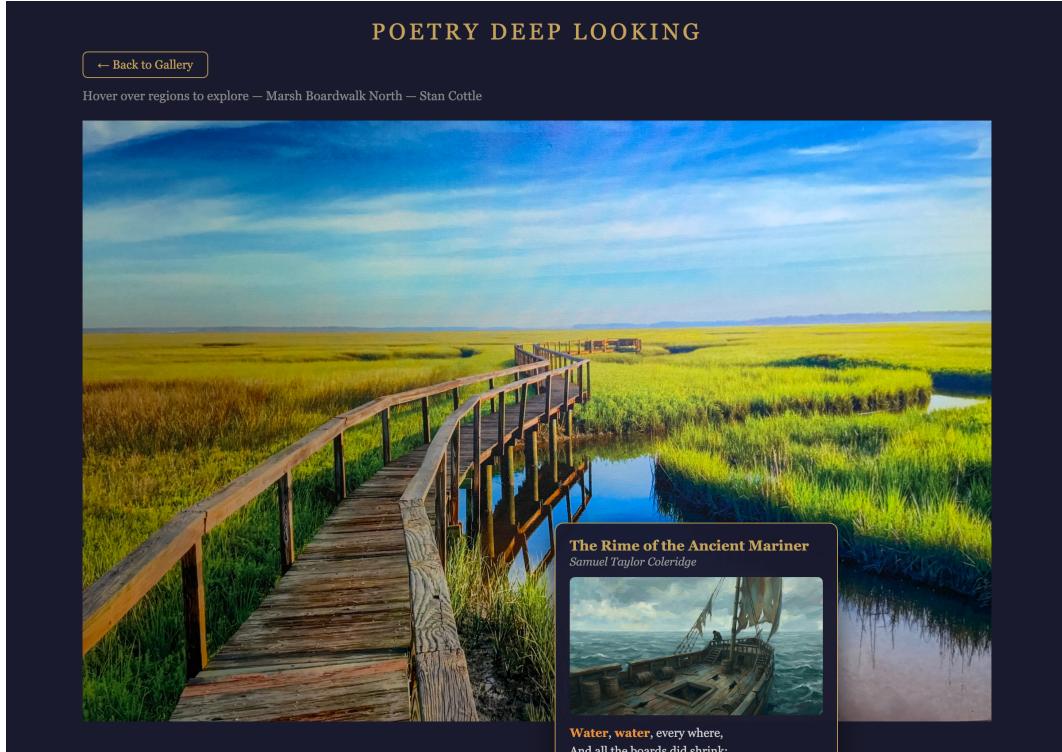


Figure 2: Hovering over the tidal creek in the Marsh painting reveals *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

4 Click-to-Freeze Popup

Clicking while a popup is visible pins it in place. The pinned popup displays a close button (X) in the top-right corner and converts the poem title into a hyperlink that opens the full poem in a new browser tab.

5 Technical Architecture

The application is a single `index.html` file with embedded CSS and JavaScript:

- **Segmentation masks** are generated by Google Gemini Pro, producing flat-color region maps.
- **Hover detection** uses pixel lookup on a hidden canvas — no polygon data needed.
- **Proportional coordinate mapping** handles the mismatch between displayed artwork size and mask dimensions.

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Hover over regions to explore — Marsh Boardwalk North — Stan Cottle



Figure 3: Pinned popup on the Marsh painting. The X button is visible and the title is now a clickable link to the full poem.

- **Poem data** is embedded as a JavaScript object, with each region mapped to a title, poet, excerpt, illustration, keyword, and URL.

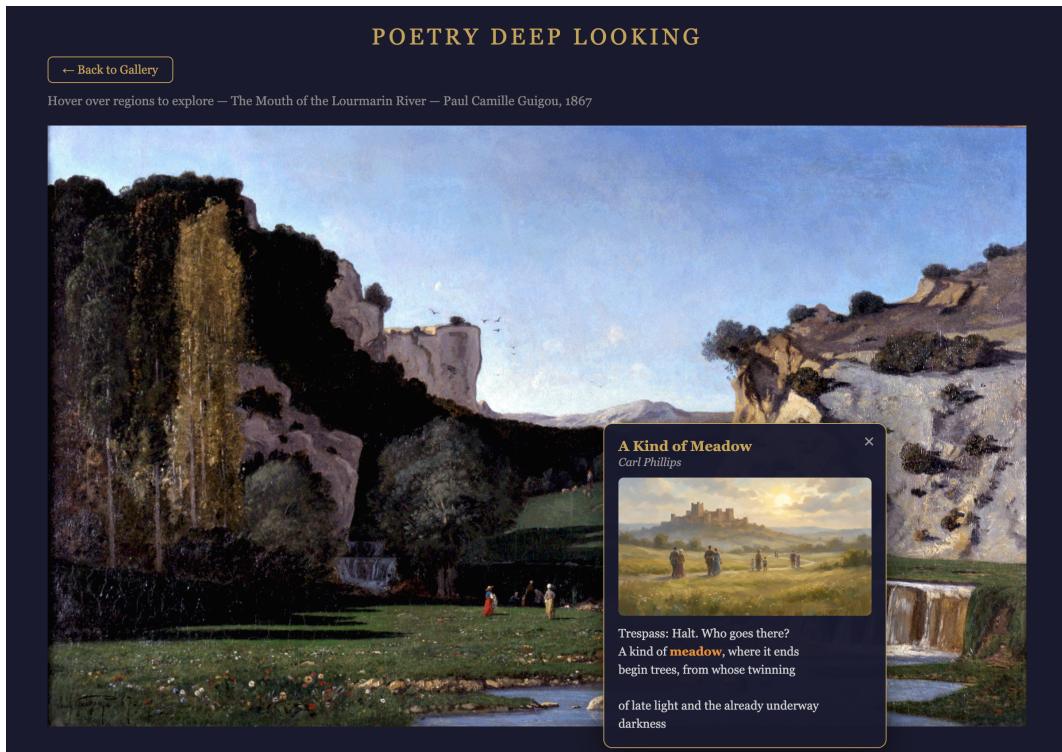


Figure 4: Pinned popup on the Lourmarin painting showing *A Kind of Meadow* by Carl Phillips with the close button visible.