

# Cultural Claude Glass

from historical context

## What?



Time & Place

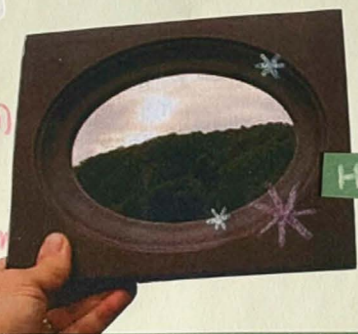
Widely used in the late 18 Century  
1775-1780

Europe

(You can find one in V&A museum)

made by artisans

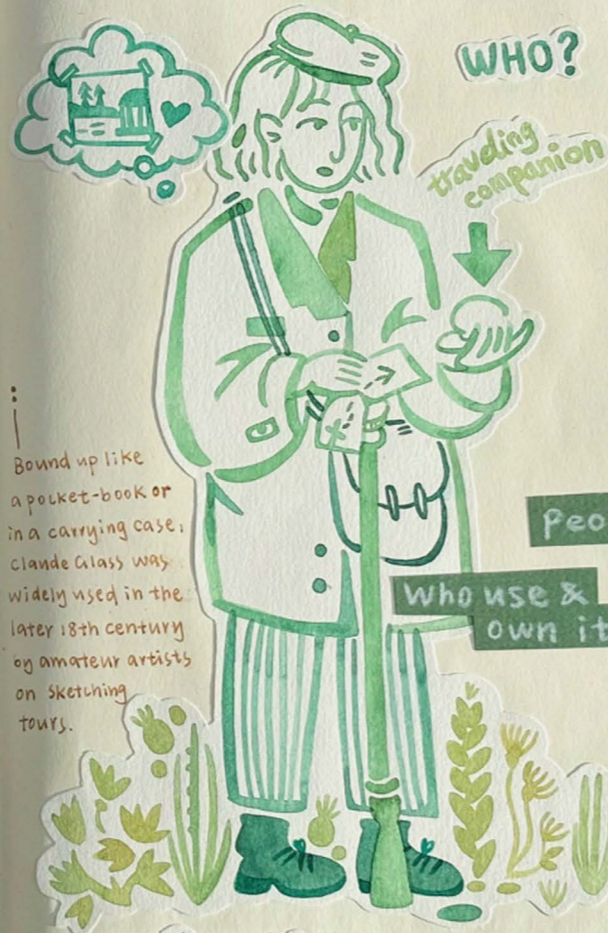
? dark lacquer  
convex lens



How?

source materials and Process

What is it made of?



WHO?

People

Who use & own it?

Young scholars / amateur artists  
explorers • nature lovers  
in pursuit of "picturesque"

Bound up like a pocket-book or in a carrying case, Claude Glass was widely used in the later 18th century by amateur artists on sketching tours.

## USE?

Reference <sup>[1]</sup> Roger Paden. Picturesque Landscape Painting and Environmental Aesthetics. [J]. The Journal of Aesthetic Education, 2015(2): 39-61.

[2] V&A Online Collection

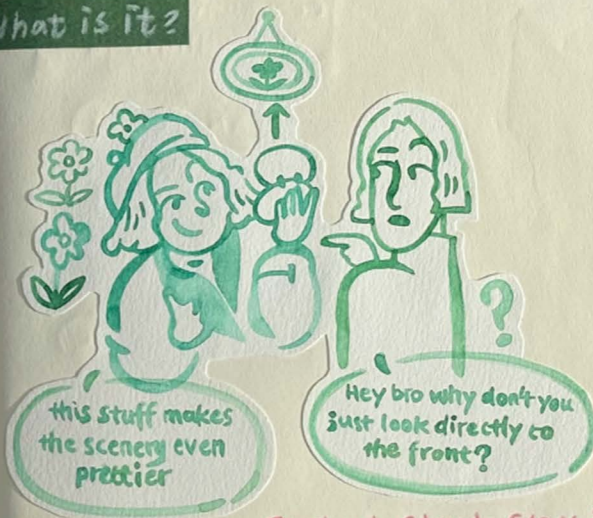
[3] Wikipedia



what is it used for?

The Claude mirror (named after its ability to create an image reminiscent of the painting of 17th Century French artist Claude Lorrain) is a slightly convex blackened mirror, which was carried in the hands and held up to the eye. The image thus seen was **!!** the scenery behind - rather than in front of the user. It has the effect of reducing and simplifying the colour and tonal range of scenes and scenery to give them a painterly quality, which added the picturesque aesthetic of a subtle gradation of tones.

## What is it?



In short, Claude Glass is a tool to help frame idealised landscape beauty.


Just like these from the modern world:



Reference:

Arnaud Maillet.

The Claude Glass: Use and Meaning of the Black Mirror in Western Art. [M]. Zone Books, 2004.



18-19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY  
ROMANTICISM



21<sup>th</sup> CENTURY  
UrbEx LOVERS

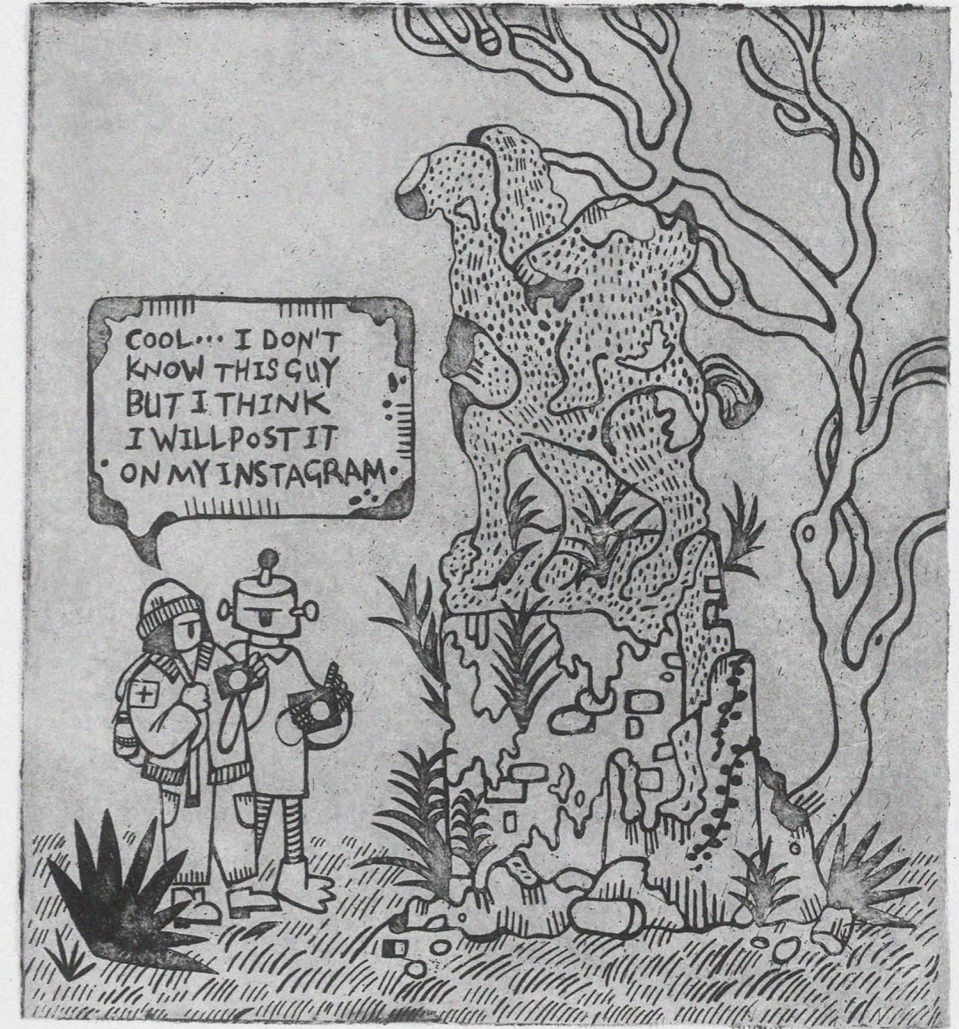




**STAGE 1**  
"DOCUMENT"



**STAGE 2**  
"TRANSFORM"



A THOUSAND YEARS LATER

**STAGE 3**  
"NARRATIVE"

Wyndham Road

Denmark Hill

Billboard



Street Sketch



Cycleway Six

\* Why did you leave? \*

