

## THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION: Works from INTERSECTIONS

Guide by Cell Transcription, STOP # 27

Artist Barbara Liotta: *Icarus*

Narrator: Barbara Liotta

Hello. This is Barbara Liotta and I want to tell you about this room. All of the works I have chosen are about essence. They show us the internal reality of their subjects. They are all not so much portraits as they are character studies. They are not about who these people are but about what they are. For example, the little Soutine is not about whose wife or daughter this woman is, but rather about her fierce agony. The Modigliani shows us something about Elena's inner self, her couture, distance and apprehension. The Delacroix is less a picture of a famous musician and more a portrayal of a mad fiddler making wonderful music. The Daumier is not concerned with the artist's resume but with that sparkling thin ray that lights the act of painting, and the little georgioni is not about which saint or version is portrayed but about the exquisite peace and harmony that they exude.

My piece, *Icarus*, is abstract; not narrative. It does not depict a mythological character but rather describes the will to soar. It is as much about Daedalus and the careful brilliance that built an escape into the sky as it is about a foolish boy who flew too close to the sun. As you look, then, let the story of the myth dissolve and consider its meaning, and I hope you enjoy it.—*Barbara Liotta*