

Dioramas

Definition:

The word diorama /ˌdaɪəˈrɑːmə/ can either refer to a 19th-century mobile theatre device, or, in modern usage, a three-dimensional full-size or miniature model, sometimes enclosed in a glass showcase for viewing for example in a museum setting.

Etymology:

The word “diorama” originated in 1823 as a type of picture-viewing device, from the French in 1822. The literal meaning is “through that which is seen”, from the Greek di- “through” + orama “that which is seen, a sight”. The diorama was invented by Louis Daguerre and Charles Marie Bouton, first exhibited in Paris in July 1822 and in London on September 29, 1823. The meaning “small-scale replica of a scene, etc.” is from 1902.

The dioramas created here are a modern, slightly humorous or romantic take on the form, created in vintage teacups, decorative vintage cosmetic cases or a series of ink pots, bell jars, shot glasses or tiny display cases.

The scenes are reflections of a more modern way of life, or the fanciful depictions of stolen moments in time.

They are designed to create a sense of voyeurism because they are tiny (most figures are less than 2cm high) necessitating the viewer to peer in close with a magnifying glass - or with excellent eyesight!