

Lesson 17 - Assignment 1 – Student Example

Feldman Art Analysis

Henri Rousseau's "I Myself Portrait Landscape"



Compared with

My Lesson #15 – Australian Shepherd – Daisy



A. DESCRIPTION

- **Colour:**

My artwork:

Australian Shepherd – Daisy portrays earthy colours. The mood is the beauty and expression of the features of my dog's face.

Master Artwork:

Henri Rousseau's "I Myself Portrait Landscape" uses cool and earthy colours. He has used light sky blue in the sky to show it is during the day. This colour also shows the brightness of the day. The colour that Henri has used in the flags on the boat show what nationality they are from. This shows he wanted to show this painting on a multi-cultural level. The mood is a calm flow of life. This is portrayed through the activities that are shown. Such as, the boat, hot air balloon, paintbrush and mixing palette, people admiring the boat, the bridge, lake and houses. The mood is set in a peaceful city in France. However, the self-portrait of the painter looks serious and solemn, this is emphasized as well with the color of his clothes – black.

- **Shapes:**

My artwork:

I have used circular and triangular shapes to produce the inner shape and overall appearance of Daisy's face, but organic shape outlines the basic outline of her face. However, her eyes are an oval geometric shape with circles for the inner eye.

Master Artwork:

Henri uses geometric, angular and organic shapes. He uses geometric and angular shapes for the houses. The sun is a geometric circle shape. The organic shapes are what the figures are made of. The clouds are also organic shapes.

What looks like a hot air balloon in the sky is an organic shape. The flags are of geometric shape. The rest of the landscape is made up of both geometric and organic shapes.

- **Lines:**

My artwork:

I have used line to define the features of the face, such as the area around the eyes, eyebrows, nose, ears, directional as well as diagonal line form the fur. Some lines surround the mouth to form the whiskers. I have used line to define the shape of the ears, nose.

Master Artwork:

Henri uses line to define shapes including organic shapes. This gives this painting fine detail. He uses line to define his self-portrait. Rousseau uses line to define the features of his face.

- **Texture, Brushstrokes:**

My artwork:

Brushstroke has been used to give texture to the fur of Daisy. I have used curved and flared brushstroke to achieve this affect. My brushstrokes are strong, swift strokes of the brush which defines the shape of Daisy's face as well as her features. The brushstrokes have been used in the direction in which Daisy's face appears in reality. For instance on her forehead, the brushstrokes are painted upwards which is how her fur is in reality, the brushstrokes go downward on the ears, below her eyes and on her neck.

Master Artwork:

Henri uses a relaxed and flowing brushstroke at the lake. This helps to achieve a flowing texture and feel. The sky and path is a smooth and even brushstroke, which gives the appearance of serenity.

- **Space**

My Artwork:

The green in the background is the negative space. The positive space is my dog Daisy. In the foreground is Daisy's nose and mouth and then there is space between these features and her eyes and ears.

Master Artwork:

The person in the foreground is positive space the landscape is negative space.

- **Value**

My artwork:

Daisy's Face is mostly dark value. There is also some dark value in the background to show depth. However, the background is mostly light to showcase the foreground.

Master Artwork:

Rousseau uses value to show shadows. He uses dark value on the boat. He also uses dark value on the foreground. This being the self-portrait, the large man in the middle of the picture. This brings out the foreground picture from the lighter background.

- **Center of Interest**

My artwork:

The first thing that is noticed in my picture is the dog. (Australian Shepherd – Daisy.) The eyes are the focal point, they draw the viewer in. They are staring at the viewer. It then leads down to the rest of the features. The center interest is my dog Daisy.

Master Artwork:

The first thing that the viewer notices is the larger than life man standing in the middle of the painting. This is the center of interest. The next thing that is noticed is the boat

with contrasting colours. As the eye leads down from the boat, you see the bridge. After that, all the landscape is seen by looking left, right and center.

- **Preferred Medium:**

My Artwork:

My preferred medium is watercolour and computer imagery.

Master Artwork:

Rousseau's preferred medium is oil on canvas.

- **Subject Matter:**

My Artwork:

I paint and do computer imagery of landscapes of where I have been. Another subject matter is animals. This, being both domestic and wildlife animals. In this painting, I have shown my dog who means so much to me. I saved my pocket money for two years until I had enough money to buy her. When I had my 13th birthday, we drove from South of England to Scotland to go and fetch her.

Master Artwork:

Most of Rousseau's artwork depicts jungle scenes. He was a self-taught artist. His inspiration came mainly from the nature around him, illustrated books, the botanical gardens in Paris, tableaux of "taxidermified" wild animals. He also met with soldiers who had survived the French expedition to Mexico. He listened to the stories of the experiences of the subtropical country they had encountered. To the critic Arsene Alexandre, he described his frequent visits to the Jardin des Plantes: "When I go into the glass houses and I see the strange plants of exotic lands, it seems to me that I enter into a dream." He was known for inventing a new genre of portrait landscape - doing portraits with a landscape background as can be seen in his painting of "I Myself Portrait Landscape". He achieved this by first

painting a view of a favorite part of the city, then he would paint a person in the foreground. This painting shows us where Rousseau's favorite part of the city was.

- **Environment**

My artwork:

The environment is non-descript since it's a green background with a diagonal line which divides the background of the painting on the right side. However, the crease shows there could be fabric in the background, and the lighter colour green on the bottom right is the top part of the green pillow Daisy was lying on. She is actually laying on my couch in the living room of our house, but the couch is black, and seeing as though I painted just her face, the couch is not seen.

Master Artwork:

Rousseau painted in France. He painted cities and suburbs of France. This painting shows this with the Eiffel tower in the background. This painting is showing his favorite city in France.

- **Historic Period**

My Artwork:

2012 – Calgary, Canada

From the picture, no exact setting can be seen. However, I painted it in Canada in the 21st century.

Master Artwork:

1844 – 1910 France

The painting is set in France in the late 1800s.

- **Artistic Influences**

My Artwork:

I am influenced by expressionists. I enjoy their brushstrokes. I like how they use it to achieve texture and to

show expression through their painting. My influence is also that of Impressionism and Post Impressionism as can be seen in Van Gogh's works of art. He also painted scenes of everyday life and subject matter as well as used strong colour and brushstrokes. I have been greatly encouraged and influenced by the Art and Distance Learning Center in Calgary. They have taught me about the elements of art, principles of design, history of art, techniques as well as given me an everlasting love and appreciation for art. Art is what I will be pursuing in post secondary education.

Master Artwork:

Rousseau had "no teacher other than nature". He said he received "some advice" from two established academic painters namely Auguste-Clement and Jean-Leon Gerome. But, he was mainly self-taught and is considered to be a naïve or primitive painter. Rousseau was also said to be part of the Post Impressionist movement

- **Energy Evident In Work:**

My Artwork:

I would say that my artwork is rather static -it is a portrait of a dog.

The main focus is the expression on my dog's face. The energy however in my dog's face is shown with the strong use of brushstroke, which defines the energy of the fur as it sweeps itself in its definite directions.

Master Artwork:

From observing the painting, there is a boat and people admiring the boat, the painter holding his paintbrush and palette. There is a Calm flow of movement and energy.

- **Symbols**

My Artwork:

The main focal point of this painting is my dog. I would therefore say that the symbol is of a big love for my special

dog Daisy, this is why I have focused on just her face and her eyes looking straight at me.

Master Artwork:

Rousseau's painting is of city life in France. It is probably his favorite part of the city. It is possible that Rousseau being the largest in the painting could mean, he is trying to portray that he is 'larger than the city.' Also there are universal flags on the ship. This could portray a multiculturalism symbol. The paintbrush and mixing palette is a symbol that Rousseau is a painter, he took himself seriously and wanted to be known as a master painter. He does this by positioning himself in the centre of the painting while posing with his tools of his trade.

The French Landscape with Eiffel Tower, iron bridge crossing the Seine, hot air balloon and flags on the ship are all symbols of Paris. The odd shaped animal-like clouds maybe refers to his use of animals that are seen in his landscapes.

- **Analysis and Overall Composition**

My Artwork:

When I look at the dog I see a rather serious expression. The eyes are looking straight at me. Each feature is distinctly seen.

There are colors of the dog and background that are earthy browns and green, grey. They depict the color of the dog as well as the nature-loving and natural type of a person that I am. The main focal point of the painting is my dog Daisy, as she is a big part of my life.

Master Artwork:

The Portrait is what is first noticed. It looks almost like its not supposed to be there. It is larger than the landscape making it seem out of proportion. The landscape feels open and bright. The sky is blue and bright making it look inviting to the viewer. The bridge, lake, trees and boat give it a

peaceful setting. The houses show that it is a city. The Eiffel tower shows it is in France.

Rousseau has used brushstroke well to show detail in his painting. He has also used symbols in his painting to give meaning to the painting. Making this a Symbolic Self-Portrait Painting.

- **Interpretation and Meaning:**

My Artwork:

The meaning of my artwork is to show the expression of my dogs face as well as her beauty that she portrays in her features.

Master Artwork:

In this picture Rousseau looks serious. He is also holding a paintbrush and mixing palette. This could mean he is trying to portray that he is serious about his painting, since he was ridiculed in the past about his jungle scene paintings being 'childish.' He shows himself in city life in Paris, this could mean that he enjoyed city life in Paris. Or, that this is his favorite part of the city. Also shown is different nationality of flags. This could mean, these were the places he has been to, or these are the places he wished he could go to. There are clouds, which are possibly shaped liked animals from his landscapes. This could mean he wanted to show his love of his jungle scenes.

- **Judgment, Opinion,**

My Artwork:

I feel I portrayed the expression and beauty of my dogs face well. The brushstrokes are strong, effective and the face has good proportion with harmonious balance of facial features.

Master Artwork:

Rousseau shows the viewer that its is a peaceful city in France. I feel it is a good representation of Rousseau. He portrays a

favorite part of a city he likes. He also shows his love of painting. I like his self-portrait landscape. Since it also includes a landscape with his self-portrait, giving it a symbolic meaning. Saying, he is a serious painter and this is his favorite city.