

An Art Criticism of the Painting "Flora"

Presented to teacher name
AVI 10 Visual Arts
(course code and name)

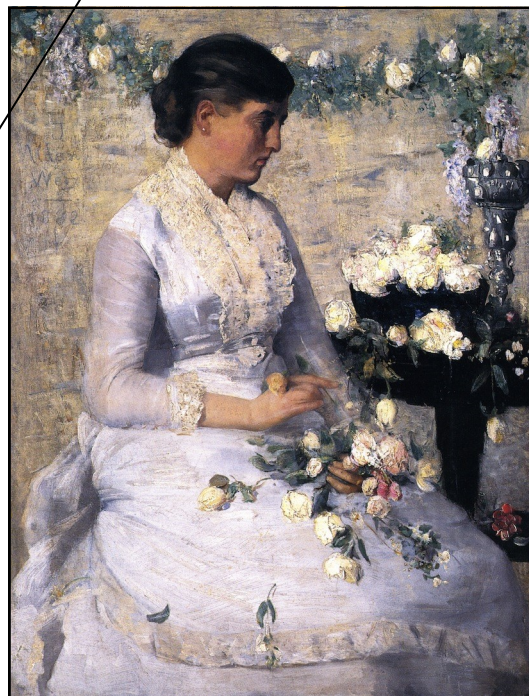
A properly formulated title page is always required to formally present your work. It should contain pertinent information such as the title of your essay, who it is presented to and for what course. It should also identify the institution, date and student name. Graphics should be avoided.

St. Thomas Aquinas CHS
Date

Student Name

Introduction

In the oil painting, Flora (Carrie Mansfield Weir), by Julian Weir, a well-dressed Victorian woman is depicted, portrait style, sitting next to a small black table. The woman, Carrie, is also holding an array of flowers in her hand and several more stems of flowers are strewn across her lap. A silvery-gray vase sits on the table next to a large bowl filled with flower buds. Behind Carrie is a plain, flat wall decorated only by a narrow garland of roses which hangs above and behind her.

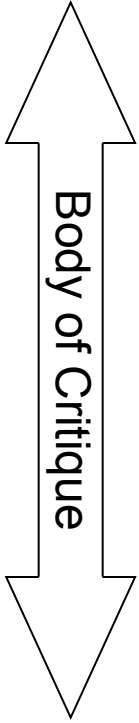


Descriptive details such as the artist and other recognizable objects are introduced in the intro-

The painting appears washed-out emphasized by the use of many shades of soft white. Carrie's dress is a mixed gray shade of white and the lace trim on her dress is an antique yellow-white. The flowers everywhere (on the table, in the bowl, in Carrie's hands, on her lap, intertwined in the garland) are all various shades of white with a few streaks of pink and red mixed in. Even the wall behind her is a dull brownish-white color. The cool splash of green in the garland and the strong black of the round table add interest and balance to the picture. The lines in this painting are for the most part thick, graceful, and often curve each of which emphasize the gently rounded flowers, the crescent shaped leaves, and the loose folds of her dress as is bunches up around her knees and feet. The black table and bowl next to Carrie appear even darker due to the lightness of her dress and the pale scattered flowers. The soft, smooth wall behind Carrie, silky petals in her lap and gauzy, almost transparent, sleeves of her dress all

Body of Critique

The body paragraphs of the persuasive critique essay contain an analysis of the artwork. This will generally reference the artist's application of the elements and principles of art as well as technical media application and tools used.



add texture. The rounded curves of her womanly figure bring Carrie forward to the viewer's perspective as the garland seems to hang above and behind her somewhat in the distance. As the topic (and even the title) of this painting, Carrie fills the majority of the canvas.

The smooth texture and rounded, soft-edged shapes in the center of the painting draws the viewer's focus upon Carrie. The velvety smooth flowers held in her small curved hands and the sharp, detailed texture on the lace trim (in a sloping V-shape) along her bodice continually brings the view back to Carrie. The contrasting textures of the leafy garland, sleek table, and delicate fabric of her dress balance the painting and centers the focus of attention upon Carrie once again.

The body paragraphs of the persuasive critique essay contain an analysis of the artwork. This will generally reference the artist's application of the elements and principles of art as well as technical media application and tools used.

Interpretation

While the painting is a portraiture, Julian Alden Weir is not only attempting to create a life-like picture of his sister, but he is also to symbolically represent the ancient Roman goddess of flowers, Flora. Weir is known for painting family portraits and floral still-lives. This painting therefore combines both of these types of art. A feeling of dignity and contemporary Victorian pomp is created by Carrie's style of dress, posture, and facial expression.

The interpretation discusses the writer's point of view of the artwork. This section of the critique essay is generally subjective and may present a variety of information that exists between the author's connection to the artwork.

Conclusion

This work of art is a good example of early impressionistic paintings. Julian Weir's use of a bright background and a lot of white mixed with other light colors is significant to the Impressionism era of art. The small, blurred brush strokes that can best be seen from a distance are also typical of the impressionist artists. Most viewers will really enjoy this work because of its visually soft feeling and serenely depicted character.

The conclusion will present the writer's judgment of the work of art. Based on the information that the author has presented in the body of the critique essay, they will reason why this is or is not a successful artwork.

Bibliography

Bolger Burke, Doreen. J Alden Weir: An American Impressionist. Delaware: University of Delaware Press, 1991.

Cox, Kenyon. *The Art of J. Alden Weir*. The Burlington Magazine for Connoisseurs. Vol. 15, No. 74 (May, 1909), pp. 130-132.

Merrill, Linda, et. al. After Whistler: The Artist and His Influence on American Painting. New Haven. CT: Yale University Press, 2003.

A bibliography is always required in any type of essay work. It presents to the reader any information that the author has consulted and/or used to write his/her essay.