



# Visual Arts Virtual Learning

## Painting I

# “Looking Closer”

## Artwork Critique

Grades 9-12

May 13th, 2020



## **Objective/Learning Target:**

**The student will increase his/her visual literacy by analyzing specific aspects of a provided painting.**

### **Bell Ringer**

“To approach the spiritual in art, one will make as little use as possible of reality, because reality is opposed to the spiritual”

--Piet Mondrian

What does this quote mean to you? Is your work more of a reflection of reality or spiritual (fantasy)? Do you more commonly use established symbolism in your work, or do you tend to create your own?



## **Lesson/Activity**

Because there cannot be an expectation that all students create an actual painted piece of artwork, this lesson gives students the opportunity to look at and analyze pieces that could have been presented in classes at school.

IF you have access to painting supplies at home, hopefully the examples shown in the lessons will be a source of inspiration for your own work.

## **Student Practice**

Look at the provided example(s) & answer the following questions.

## **Additional Resources**

painting example(s):

Painting Title: "The Gray Tree"

Artist: Piet Mondrian

Style: Abstract





## Reflection/Evaluation/Check for Understanding:

### Composition

1. What objects, imagery, and/or Elements of Art are you seeing in the work?
2. Is there a main subject or focal point?
3. What are you seeing in the background or negative space areas?
4. What balance are you seeing in the work?
5. Are you seeing any of the other Principles of Design? Which ones?
6. Do you see an appearance of space or distance? If so, what has the painter done to create this look?
7. What else do you notice about how the painting has been composed? Has the painter used the Rule of Thirds, using odd numbers, etc.?

### Color Usage

1. What colors are you seeing?
2. Do these colors help create a specific color scheme? If so, which one?
3. How has the painter used color intensity? In other words, are the colors saturated, dull, or a combination of both?
4. How has the painter used color value? Are colors predominantly light, dark, or a combination of both?



## Style/Technique

1. How would you describe the appearance of the objects/imagery? Realistic? Cartoon-ish? A combination? Abstract? Objective or nonobjective?
2. What are you specifically seeing that led you to your answer for question number 1?
3. How would you describe how the paint has been applied (the technique)?
4. What does the technique add to the painting?

## Content

1. What do you think is the intended content (message) of the painting?
2. How does the focal point (main subject) relate to the content?
3. How does the arrangement (including size) of objects/imagery relate to the content?
4. What else is happening in the composition that you think adds to the content?
5. Is the color scheme important to conveying the content? Why or why not?
6. How does the saturation (or de-saturation) of the colors relate to the content?
7. How does the style and technique of the painting help add to the content?

## Reflection

1. How would you describe the overall mood, vibe, and energy of the painting?
2. In what ways do you feel the painting is successful?
3. Roughly how long do you think the work took to complete? Why?
4. Overall, do you like or dislike the painting? Please explain why.
5. What, if anything, could you incorporate from this painting into your own work?

Additional Examples of Mondrian's work:









