

PAPER #2: 19TH-CENTURY FRENCH ART

This last paper is based on a virtual museum visit to the 19th-century French art collection of the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena. The 19th-century French art collection can be found here on the Museum's website: <https://www.nortonsimon.org/art/explore-the-collection/european-painting-and-sculpture/>. Click on "Search the Collection" and in the Advanced Search filters, click on "Date" and in the "Search by Date" box, set your parameters as 1830 to 1899. In addition, click on "Show Only" and check the boxes "Artworks with Images" and "Artworks on view." Select a work of art of your choice from the search results (ignoring the random Asian art object that somehow got included). The purpose of this paper is *visual analysis* of the work of art you selected.

Your essay should include the *title of the work, name of the artist, medium, and a brief description of what is represented*. More importantly, your essay should address the following questions. The questions should help you make a systematic analysis of the work you choose and help you appreciate more intensely the art you have selected.

1. **What does the work mean? What is it about?** If you know the source of the story—for example, the illustration of an ancient myth or biblical story—give the appropriate citation.
2. **What was the cultural context of the work?** What meaning do you think it had for the viewer of its time?
3. **How is the subject portrayed?** What is its emotional content (if any)?
4. **How does the artist deploy the formal elements in the painting (color, line, light, space, forms) to create the meaning in the work and to communicate to the viewer this meaning?**

Writing Task:

After viewing and thinking about the work of art you selected, write a 4-6 full page cogent visual analysis of it. This essay involves more than just writing about your subjective experience of the work (that is, you describe it and say how well you like or not like it). Rather I want you to engage in an *objective, systematic analysis* of the work, which creates a more satisfying art-viewing experience. *Please include an image of the work you are writing about with your final draft.*

**N.B. Avoid plagiarism at all cost.* If the words or ideas in your essay are not your own, you must indicate to the reader their source(s). If you consult an outside source (wall label, catalog, etc.) to provide background or additional information for your paper, it is expected that you will properly cite the information extracted from this source using an appropriate form of documentation (i.e., standard footnotes or endnotes or clear parenthetical citations). You must also provide a separate "Works Cited" page at the end of your essay.

Due Date:

Tuesday, May 19 to my mailbox at abertiz@laverne.edu by 12noon.