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Mary Cassatt- Autumn

Mary Cassatt, Autumn painting captures my attention as it was impressionists' goal: to create an impression. The painting creates a real feeling of a park scene, highlighting the blowing wind to assume the cool environment that those visiting a park long for. Details applied in work ensure that the painting is not a duplication of a park scene but a real representation of a park, thus giving a satisfactory impression. Impressionists believed that a painting should capture important environmental features and the mood to emphasize emotions and feelings (Olson, 2018). I love visiting the park and therefore seeing a paint that brings a connection and emphasizes a park feeling is mind-blowing. Notably, the small splashes of color used, especially on the woman's cloth, highlight a more vibrant environment rather than a few boring colors that may imply a sad mood in the park. The greatest highlight in the painting is the sketchy look that implies lack of finish giving a chance to fill in the gap with ideas and memories (Martin & Jacobus, 2018). For instance, a person who adores family might ideally complete the painting with children around the park. Lastly, the painting clearly exposes the woman's face making her a center of focus, giving a sense of identity and belonging to women who are often left out in various aspects of life.

From the initial idea of utilizing the open air in paint work, it becomes possible to bring in colors from nature contrary to working in a confined studio. The open-air painting has allowed room to complement colors from the environment and colors on specific objects to bring a more realistic and vibrant feel. In this case, drawing from the characteristics of impression painting, Mary Cassatt painted on a light-colored ground contrary to traditional paintings where a medium-dark undercoat would form the painting ground (Callen, 2000). Considering that oil is semi-transparent, using a light-colored under-paint increases brightness intensity of the painting. Mary Cassatt avoids dark colors such as lamp black and instead utilizes colors of the light spectrum such as green, yellow, blue and orange to make the painting more colorful.

Consequently, as it is the nature of impressionists, the painting places complementary colors on the color wheel next to each other rather than mixing colors randomly (Callen, 2000). Placing complementary colors adjacent to each other has an intensifying effect on brightness compared to mixing the complementary colors, which yields dull brown or dark gray. For instance,

the bright complementary colors utilized in the woman's clothing bring out a light color scheme that is eye-catching.

Mary utilizes the direction of line to bring an impression of movement to the images (Martin & Jacobus, 2018). Drawing closer to the painting, images may appear blurry. Still, once you move away from the painting, the objects become clearer and realistic, as one can see the blowing wind and the gracefully seated woman. In general, Mary Cassatt utilized high-intensity colors making her paintings appear livelier and depict the colorful world that will live in.

Mary Cassatt's painting uses the asymmetric sense of balance to make the artwork more interesting. Asymmetric technique of painting guides the user not to place subjects at a center point of the painting but rather use elements that offset each other to create a visually unstable balance (Lewis, 2020). Notably, the painting appears to combine asymmetry with a central focal point by placing the woman at almost the center of the painting then creating a visual path along the wind-blown trees surrounding the woman.

The effect around asymmetry technique is that as you notice the woman first as the focus of the artwork, your eyes are quickly diverted to the wind-blown trees surrounding the woman and the colorful chair (Martin & Jacobus, 2018). Therefore, one would not notice the central placement of the woman due to the strong visual path created by the surrounding trees. Asymmetrical visual balance helps break the dull look of centering the subject of the painting and offers a pleasing look as long as the artist has a good sense of balance (Lewis, 2020). Often, effects of Asymmetry in a painting give a more realistic revelation about life. As we maneuver around the world, our opinions are not always central, nor does life offer a regular approach to everything, but people are always in a state of imbalance.

Light characteristic of impressionistic paintings has been highlighted to bring the park scene into reality. Impressionism focuses on light effects to shift focus on subject representation and complement colors for more attractive pieces (Olson, 2018). Presenting bright colors of natural light in the morning or evening offers a realistic representation of conditions that the artist wanted to imply. For instance, in the painting, the splashy blue colors of the sky between the trees and the brightness reflection on the woman would imply a sunny afternoon in the park.

Impressionists use a unique technique of painting known as the "Broken color," and it is evident in the painting. The painting technique involves using small short strokes of paints contrary

to blending tones and colors in normal painting methods (Olson, 2018). Artists come up with patches of paint work where light appears to fall on the small spaces illuminating the subjects of the artwork. Notably, the patchwork creates a visual effect of different colours allowing the eyes to blend the colors. In Mary Cassatt's painting, the paint patchwork is evident in the subject's dress, where small strokes of colors create a visual effect on the woman (Martin & Jacobus, 2018).

Impressionists have an undefined way of painting which results in abstractly presented shapes. The undefined painting technique strives to give an impression instead of clear details of the objects (Olson, 2018). It is therefore hard to see sharp edges or defined contours on impressionists' paintings. Impressionists use layers of wet paint when painting objects to allow for loose and undefined edges. The painting in question does not display clear details of the trees in the park or sharp edges to show the sitting position or features of the woman, but still, we can get the impression of a woman seated on a park bench. In general, impressionists have found a way to capture contemporary life activities and environments to depict the real situations of our life in a wall hanging.

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