

Summer HSSP 2020

Introduction to Art History

Term Sheet

iconography

studies the identification, description, and the interpretation of the content of images: the subjects depicted, the particular compositions and details used to do so, and other elements that are distinct from artistic style; image writing

motif

a distinctive feature or dominant idea within artistic composition

formal (visual) analysis

foundational information; color and composition

context

function, style, iconography

columns (corinthian, doric, and ionic)

three types of columns invented by the ancient Greeks; classical orders: ionic, doric (considered more masculine), and corinthian

impasto

super thick layering of paint or pigment to the point where it stands off the surface

contrapposto

an asymmetrical arrangement of the human figure in which the line of the arms and shoulders contrasts with, while balancing, those of the hips and legs

provenance

a record of where a work has been

composition

a work of art; artistic arrangement of the parts of a painting, picture, etc

brushwork

texture of the brush strokes or lack thereof

naturalistic

realistic; derived from real life or imitating it really closely

stylistic

relating to methods/techniques used in art

figurative

representing forms that are recognizably derived from life

foreground

part of view nearest to the observer

background

the area or scenery behind the main object of contemplation, especially when perceived as framework for it

medium

material or form used by an artist

partage

on an excavation: funding institutions get half of the finds and the finding country gets the other half

