

Comparative Study

Identity

By Maitha Alneyadi

“le désespéré”

“Girl with a Pearl Earring”



Artist: Johannes Vermeer

Date: 1665

Dimension: 44 cm x 39 cm

Movement: Baroque Art, Dutch

Golden Age

Display: Mauritshuis museum,

Netherlands

Media: Oil on canvas

Origin: Dutch

http://www.essentialvermeer.com/catalogue/girl_with_a_pearl_earring.html#.W8Qn2y-B1pk



Artist: Gustave Courbet

Date: 1844–1845

Dimension: 45 cm x 55 cm

Movements: Romanticism,

Academic art

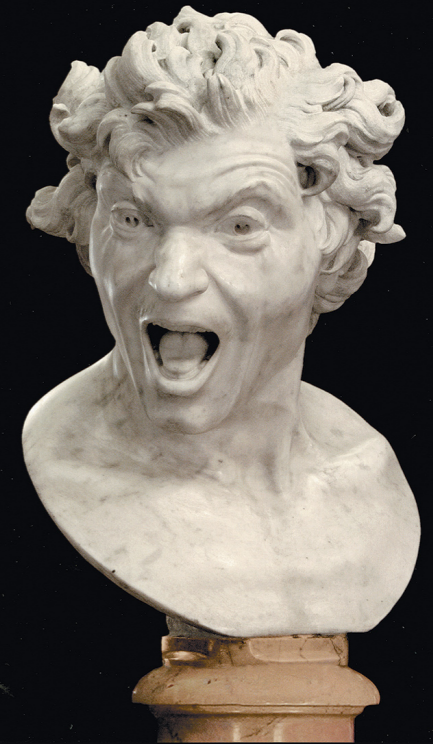
Display: ?

Media: Oil on canvas

Origin: French

<http://syndrome-de-stendhal.blogspot.com/2015/01/es-ist-zum-haareraufen-gustave-courbets.html>

“Damned Soul”



Artist: Gian Lorenzo Bernini

Date: 1619

Dimension: Life-size

Movements: Baroque Art

Display: Palazzo di Spagna,

Rome

Media: Marble

Origin: Italian

<https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2015/06/04/bernini-he-had-touch/>

Cultural Context on "Girl with a Pearl Earring"



In the twenty first century, Johannes Vermeer was one of the most famous 17th century dutch artists, although, his name was not as famous during his time and later during the 1870's he was rediscovered and 35 of his paintings were identified to be his. In Vermeer's later art works he began to show his style and painting and what composition he usually uses, most of the time it would be an interior painting featuring one or two figures mostly women. Vermeer was registered as a master painter he had a good relationship with the painter Leonard Bramer who was one of his best supporters. Some people have a theory that Vermeer was inspired by Rembrandt's works which is one of the greatest artists in Dutch art history and since Vermeer is part of the Dutch history there is a lot of comparing and contrasting which makes the subject very controversial. (2.3)

One of Vermeer's known artworks is "The Milkmaid" in this artistic piece we can see that Vermeer took a daily chore and turned it into something artsy as you can see everything in the painting seems to be still although the pouring milk seems like it's the only thing moving we can also identify that Vermeer has captured the lights and darks of the multiple objects that are on the table and for every aspect of the painting which gives the illusion that this picture is realistic. (2.4)

Girl with a Pearl Earring mostly is identified as a portrait, in all reality it is actually a tronie; a tronie is somewhat similar to a portrait but the feelings and the expressions of the person being painted are extremely enhanced. This style of painting was popular during the golden dutch age and was mostly used in baroque art and romanticism. A tronie is not based on a portrait rather it's meant to show feeling or show interesting figures like a young women, a child or it can also be an old man and most of the time makes the viewer curious about whats happening in the painting. (2.5)

Girl with a Pearl Earring is the perfect example of a tronie since the painting itself creates a mystery atmosphere that would make the viewer want to know whats happening.



Let's take the concept that everyone still is not sure about it, who is the woman in the painting? Is she turning towards you or away from you? This is exactly what a tronie is supposed to create, it's supposed to create these unanswered questions and mysteries, anyone can have their own point of view about the painting. The focal point of this painting is obvious and is identified by reading the title and looking at the painting which is the pearl, Vermeer was an illusionist when he painted the pearl from a close perspective it looks like a floating blob of painting but when looked at from a distance the illusion of it being a pearl earring is created. The pearl earring shows the symbol of wealth and since Vermeer was living in a town where the economy was really bad he couldn't have had the money to actually buy the pearl some theories state that it might be a glazed piece of glass reflecting light but the mystery still remains. (2.6)

Critical Investigation on Johannes Vermeer

Vermeer is a realist artist who is mostly known for his chiaroscuro art and the way he composes his artworks to capture the viewer and how he pays attention to compositions in all his artworks. Although Vermeer's masterpieces are known world wide there is so little we know about his life since he devoted his life for his art. (2.7)

Vermeer's father worked in selling paintings and making a living out of it which makes Vermeer familiar with art since he was a little boy, he was the only son in the family and had one other sibling although Vermeer was born and raised protestant later in his life he converted to Catholicism and the reason why he did that still remains unknown. When Vermeer first started painting he focused on creating scenes from the Bible and biblical stories but then in the seventeenth century having your own style or own piece of mind was very much popular and artists began painting their emotions this is when Vermeer created his own style of painting, the way he sends the message and as well as how the composition is in the painting. In Vermeer's middle years he married Catherine Bolnes which was from a wealthy family therefore Vermeer had to move in with his mother-in-law but never really left his hometown. His wife, Catherine was featured in some of Vermeer's paintings like Woman Holding a Balance and Woman Reading a Letter. Catherine and Johannes had 15 children together where 4 died at birth which leaves 11 children but unfortunately none of them inherited their father's amazing skills. After the unfortunate death of Vermeer his wife was very fond of his painting and tried to keep as much as possible but like other artists Vermeer had debts and were left for his family to pay after his death which led to Catherine giving up most of his paintings. Vermeer is considered an important artist but one of his downfalls during his years that he wasn't able to find patrons to buy his artworks and the reason was because he never really left his hometown (2.8)

Jean-Désiré-Gustave Courbet, mostly known as Gustave Courbet is the eldest of four siblings and has grown up in a small town in France with his parents. After reaching 14 years old Courbet started taking lessons with a local artist called père. Once he turned 18 years old he moved from his small town to a city called Besançon where he developed more artistic skills. Following that move was Paris which was the city that changed Courbet's life since he had access to visiting the Louvre, Paris, he would also have the opportunity to copy famous artists that displayed their artworks there. One of his early artworks was "le désespéré" which was a self-portrait, after a year of painting "le désespéré" his next artwork was also a self-portrait called "Self-Portrait with a Black Dog". Courbet peaked when 10 of his artworks were accepted to be displayed in the Paris salon, the second year he was awarded a gold-class medal which meant his artworks did not have to be seen by juries in order for them to be displayed, although, it was a benefit for him by the year 1857 the rules had changed and he was no longer in possession of the gold-class medal. In the mid-1800's large artworks from mythology or historical/biblical events would be respected and praised more, Courbet did in fact work on larger scale canvases but instead of painting the preferred genres he chose to depict everyday lifestyles and an example for that would be his artwork "The Stone-Breakers". (3.2)

Courbet loved speaking French and loved Paris so much and was always his dream to live there one day and his dream became true. Courbet used to shock people with his paintings during his times, he still does after seven and a half centuries. Some called him mad but referring back to his attitude he didn't really care about it but this really shows Courbet's personality and no matter how much people tried to put him down he still kept doing what he loved. He also was shown as a tortured soul since he was rejected by all art galleries and salons yet he still managed to get over it. Through the painting the artist was discovering his self and creating his own style and sense in painting and was also in his early years which makes sense that he still did not fully discover or know his self. "During my life, I have painted myself many times, whenever my state of mind changed. In short, I have written the story of my life."

Gustave Courbet, 1854. This was a quote by Courbet explaining the changes of his painting style and why it changed several times and why he did not rely on the traditional historical events or biblical stories, he instead chose to show the world what he feels inside and what he wants the people to know about him. Although he did start off painting historical events etc. since it was the right way to paint in his time. Courbet began sending paintings to the salon as soon as he arrived in Paris, he in fact sent 24 paintings and only 3 were accepted, his lack of success is obvious; Courbet was a modest man and did not really take credit for what he did and some say that he was heavy handed and yet Courbet still did not discover his self until his late years. (3.6)

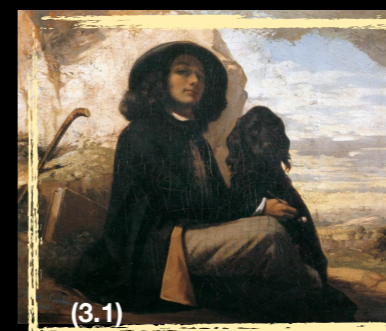
With no exaggeration Courbet's favorite object to paint was himself and in fact his favorite genre to paint was self-portraits and was his preferred genre.

What's famous about Courbet's self-portrait "le désespéré" is that a lot of people think the purpose of it was to capture 'realistically' as well as capture every single detail, but, in all reality the purpose was to capture his emotions, the drama and was not an attempt to capture every detail and being realistic.

When looking at all of Courbet's paintings anyone would automatically assume that his specialty is drawing landscapes and everyday scenes, now this is where people are wrong because they assume and don't actually know that his preferred genre is self-portraits. The Desperate Man can capture anyone's attention from the first glance because of how extreme emotions flow out of it. Courbet used to call himself the most arrogant man in France since he loved his self way too much and would put his self before anyone he ever knew and did not really care what people think of him or say, as long as he's happy. (3.5)

In 1854-55 Courbet painted an autobiographical painting called "The painter's Studio" this almost 20 foot large canvas featured Courbet's 7 year artistic phase and it had Courbet painting on a canvas hung on an easel and surrounding him were all the people that supported him during these 7 years including his friends and family. When Courbet wanted to display this amazing artwork in the Exposition Universelle, unfortunately, his request was rejected by the jury and because of the jury not approving his artwork to be displayed in the Exposition Universelle Courbet decided to display it in a near pavilion and in the pavilion he didn't only display his 20 foot canvas he displayed all of his artworks during the 7 years. During the 1860's Courbet settled on more still lifes and landscapes instead of his usual controversial scenes, finally his art has met the expectations of what people at that time called fine art. Courbet's realistic style of painting and choice of scenes corresponded with his political beliefs. When Napoleon III's rule collapsed Courbet was arrested for being involved in the destruction of Vendôme Column a Napoleonic regime. In Courbet's final years he was punished by being sent to prison for 6 months and he had to pay a small fine. He then moved to Switzerland, while being exiled Courbet's need to drink increased so he began drinking tremendously he still was able to create landscapes and portraits. The year 1877, December 13th Courbet died at the age of 58 due to a liver infection. (3.3)

The realist painter of the 19th century, Gustav Courbet was determined to render the world and strived to create his own taste and style of painting and was independent all his life. Courbet wanted to depict truth not beauty and imagination but he wanted to state the obvious in his paintings, a big percentage of his paintings are scenes from the daily life he was telling the truth in his painting not sugar coating it. His obstinate artistic style is what made him stand out from other artists from the same era because of this in his late life his paintings were rejected by the jury to be displayed which led to him exhibiting his work in his own salon and being independent. Before building up his own style in painting which is a unique one and before creating his masterpieces, Courbet made a couple of romanticism self-portraits including "le désespéré" which is also known as "The Desperate Man." It was one of his earliest artworks and was deeply emotional, with him staring at you with his eyes wide open and tearing his hair you can tell that he's desperate and some might even relate to what he's feeling and you could also imagine what his personality was like. Courageous, underhanded, extremist, desiring success and stubborn; determined to success in his career and determined to challenge himself with creating different genres of painting and not creating the same style and concepts. Courbet did not stick to the traditions of painting in his era what so ever and thought of them as clichés and he wanted to change the history of art. (3.4)



Cultural significance
Of Gustav Courbet & "le désespéré"

Cultural context on “ Damned Soul ”

“Blessed Soul” is another sculpture by Bernini and it’s supposed to be the opposite of “Damned Soul”, the maiden is looking up towards the sky as if she’s being admitted to the heavens. Both “Damned Soul” and “Blessed Soul” are a representation of salvation and damnation in the concept of where a soul is gone when a person dies either that the soul is going to heaven or to hell whereas “Blessed Soul” represents a soul going to heaven looking up and has a relieved facial expression. Whereas “Damned Soul” represents a soul going to hell, looking down and having an angry look on his face as if he was experiencing the horrors of hell. When put together the sculptures represent the two paths taken by a soul after death. Showing the features of his face, thick brows, and sharp teeth with the tongue carved as if the sculpture was about to scream, Bernini supposedly carved a hole in the iris of the man to show the fear in his eyes. After researching I had found that several sources claim that in order for Bernini to capture the exact face expressions he had to hold his hand over a flame and burn himself to get the effect of pain and fear as if he was going to hell. Bernini successfully captured the expressions of both blessed and damned souls and they truly do tell a story and express their emotions and do not have to depend on the artist explaining them. (4.5)



Italian artist Gian Lorenzo Bernini was born in 1598 with 5 siblings which then became 13 and he was the 6th eldest, his childhood was spent in Naples than his family moved to Rome in 1606. Probably one of the best sculptors in the 17th century, Bernini created the Baroque style in sculpturing, Bernini took after his father Pietro Bernini who’s a successful Mannerist sculptor. In Bernini’s early years his family moved to Rome and as soon as they did Bernini was so fascinated by antique Greek and Roman marbles that were in the Vatican and had learned what the high Renaissance of the 16th century was by heart he also studied Michelangelo’s sculptures so well and was amazed by them. Bernini started his first sculpture at the age of 11, “ The Goat Amalthea with the Infant Jupiter and a Faun ” Cardinal Maffeo Barberini had once visited Bernini’s father and got a glimpse of Bernini’s work. He warned his father that Bernini will surpass his father because of how good he was and this was only in the age of eleven. This period affected Bernini’s art career so much since Rome was a pot with all different kinds of artists from sculptors to painters to architects and all other kinds, earning a living in Rome was really hard because of the competition but it was never a problem for Bernini and his family. Gian’s reputation as a sculptor thrived in the city during the 17th century which led to his employment by 6 outstanding popes, Pope Urban VIII said to him, “you are made for Rome, and Rome for you.” Gian’s contract with the Roman government lasted 50 years and with close ties with all 6 popes. Bernini had an affair with his assistant Constanza in which during that period he created a bust of her, this established a new era in European sculpture concepts since busts were a formal portrait reserved for tombs and was not a concept of informal portraits since ancient Rome. Bernini finding out the Constanza was cheating on him with his brother led to Bernini being furious and was so mad that he went after him and almost beating him to death then ordered a servant to slash Constanza’s face. Bernini having the relationship with the 6 popes he was not punished instead he and Caterina Tezio were wed and then had eleven children. (4.3)



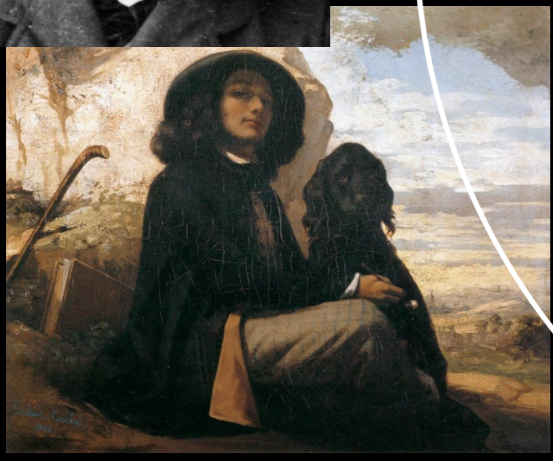
Bernini used to carve gods and saints like Michelangelo did before him he loved creating the human form and express his and their emotions and the three dimensional figure. A legendary sculpture of Bernini is a sculpture located in a small church located in Rome and this sculpture shows the saint being visited by an angel who’s poised and sent to kill the priest. In Bernini’s opinion capturing the correct figure and shape is not everything and is not what makes a painting but capturing the expressions and the way the sculpture has its eyes and that the story is told from looking at the eyes of the sculpture. From a young age Bernini spent most of his time in his art studio learning how to handle different types of marble and stones. When he began getting requests to do more sculptures he loved it and thought of it as a prize for his skills. He would even choose sculpturing rather than spending time with his best friend says Baldinucci. Bernini was never scared to express his feelings even if it meant that he would take extreme violence to assemble a marble to carve. One of his masterpieces was on of the gods, Daphne asks her father, god of the river for help and this looked so appealing to Bernini to carve, her father then resolves his daughter and have her remains under a tree so that she’ll be able to continue to live. The difference in this sculpture is that Bernini wanted to capture the innocence of Daphne by creating smooth surfaces and clothes. (4.6)



Compare and contrast of cultural significance



“The Desperate Man” was to capture the dramatic effect and was not based off reality like “Girl with a Pearl Earring”. This painting was created to reflect Courbet’s life and how he suffered during his journey. Courbet would create most his artworks based off the fact that he wanted to express his feelings, unlike Vermeer Courbet had to hurt himself and go through horrible things to capture the emotions needed.



Both artworks show fear and mystery and that said a lot about the time during the painting and sculpture, both artworks have a different backstory to them. Both artists where from different time periods but somewhat had the same background and idea in creating artworks which was to create deep feelings.

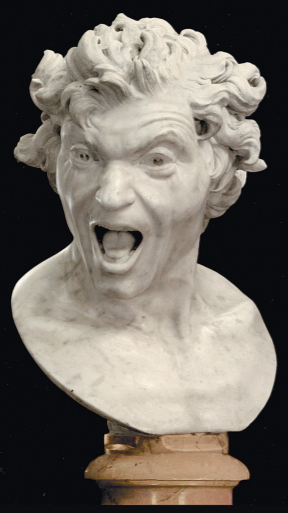
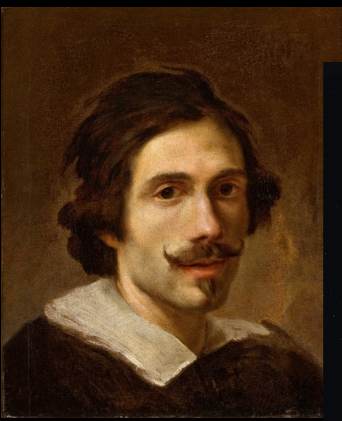
Looking at both artworks both artists have chosen a similar style of painting and they have also had the same objectives which were to change the way people looked at art and both paintings did the work needed. Today’s art is based on the first stage of creativity in artists like Courbet and Vermeer.

All three paintings evidently have something in common that is why I decided on those three artworks for my comparative study. The resemblance between all three artworks is identity, in spit of the fact that each artwork is from a different time period and a different movement, each artwork is a portrait the story behind it; each artwork talks about the art style during that time period. Also all three artists wanted to create an emotion like mystery, fear, terror, and agony.

Both artworks are from different time periods and different movements. “Girl with a Pearl Earring” was part of a series that Vermeer created where the main thing was women who were featured in this series and was to enhance their everyday chores. And show that there is emotion in everything women do. However, Vermeer was a painter whilst Bernini was a sculptor. Vermeer was in fact the only artist between all three that did not have to go through any feelings except that he admired women’s feelings and would consider himself a feminist. Since both artworks are from the Baroque art movement they have some similar characteristics and that also has to do that both artworks are originated from Europe.



To create “Damned Soul” Bernini had to cut his arm off to create this sculpture, he did that in order to capture the emotions he was looking for which were terror and agony. Whereas Vermeer created his painting “Girl with a Pearl Earring” based off a series of enhancing the everyday chores that women do but “Girl with a Pearl Earring” was one of a kind in that series since in this painting the women was unknown, unlike his other paintings and the fact that she isn’t doing anything just simply looking at you and creating the feeling of secrecy.



Interpretation of functions and purposes of "Girl with a Pearl Earring"

Girl with a Pearl earring is a well known masterpiece created by Johannes Vermeer in 1665, you may have heard that the woman in the painting is known to give the effect that she was looking back or away from you. The painting enhances realism and was created in the Baroque period with a blue and gold turban. In Vermeer's period of time art was considered a craftsmanship rather than it being a talent, as an art master, Vermeer dedicated most of his time in creating his craft, once the painting was done it was clear that it demonstrated Vermeer's interest in women's sociocultural roles. As some believe that the woman displayed in the painting is Maria, his daughter. Many art critics believe that "Girl with a Pearl Earring" is in fact a portrait but the controversy is that whether it's considered a portrait or a tronie. In Vermeer's time portraits were considered symbols of people's social status and religion whether it was a rich woman, a king, or even a farmer; it would be symbolized through paintings, sculptures, and other forms of art. Ultimately the girl featured in the painting seems to be spooked about something according to art critics, till this day it is unknown who is the girl featured in this painting, which makes us focus more in Vermeer's fine art skills and details. Perhaps Vermeer did not want to reveal the girl's identity and wanted the viewer to create their own story about the painting. (6.1)



The scientific painter photographer draws everything about her, from the light in her eyes to the different skin tone shades, he went as far as even detailing the nostrils; although the shaded part under her nose looks like it has the same shade it actually has different light and dark shades on brown and a tint of black. It's claimed that Vermeer was inspired by photography, in fact some art critics claim that "Girl with a Pearl Earring" looks like a photograph took the instant a person was about to speak. It is insane how he captured the lights and darks and made it so real, his brush strokes are so soft and smooth this plays a role in the realistic factor of the painting.

Why some art critics might not agree that this is a portrait is that because a turban in Vermeer's time was mostly used in tronies and was known as a famous prop for tronies because of its deep meaning and it always showed off the artist's skill and ability to make it look realistic and show off the tronie's deep folds which would trigger the viewer to feel towards the painting. Some art critics take the fact that she is wearing a turban is perhaps maybe she was a foreigner.(6.2)

As a visual arts student I have an opinion about every artwork I come across whether it's famous or recently created. The feedback does not necessarily mean it has to be positive and it can not all be positive. I'd always list the pros and cons of a painting, in my opinion regarding "Girl with a Pearl Earring" I am really in love with the girl's facial features and I love how Vermeer made the pearl look so big, heavy, and expensive but in reality when you look up close it is just a blob of paint on the canvas, this shows how Vermeer was an illusionist in his artworks. While researching about this painting I found out that he also does that with all of his painting, he creates a focal point the lines and curves and proportions are studied well before he assembles a drawing, and it is always to draw your attention to the object he wanted to be featured in his painting.

Known as the Mona Lisa of the north one of the most sensational famous artworks known. But what is so fascinating about the artwork? Some experts say that mystery is part of the allure; questions are more exciting when they can not be answered there is always some kind of curiosity and facts that no one really knows about the painting, like who was the girl in the painting. In the second half of the 21st century the painting's name was known as "Girl with a Turban". Vermeer has over forty paintings featuring women and their sociocultural roles, it could be that Vermeer valued women's sacrifice for their children and family; they make sure that everything in the household is going in a good direction and everything's perfect. As I am a visual arts student in my opinion I think that the painting has a whole other meaning, judging by her clothes I think she can't be Vermeer's daughter Maria although people claim that he has used some of his daughter's facial features in his famous paintings since in the 17th century turbans were not a thing in Europe and especially not in northern Europe so this girl featured seems to be a foreigner. Vermeer's choice of colors is so vivid and explain his emotions and intimacy like I said the girl wearing a turban seems to be an influence of slaves coming from other countries that traveled to the Netherlands. Like I mentioned Vermeer is known for his soft brushstrokes and how he captures the lights and darks as well as Vermeer uses fine strokes in the girl's clothes and turban.

Now in my opinion it doesn't really bother me not knowing about who was the girl in the painting some people say it was his daughter while others say it was a model, even other people say that she might be his lover and since slaves migrated to the Netherlands some say it was a slave that was wearing his wife's pearl earring. Since in his time art was considered a craftsmanship he worked really hard on it to make his reputation better and more known but unfortunately in his time he was not well known but as soon as he died and people discovered his paintings which traveled around the world in the early twenty first century.

Analysis and understanding of functions and purposes on “le désespéré”

The well known tense artist Gustave Courbet had his worldwide painting “le désespéré” in his studio till the day he died, an unknown surrealism artist in his times with a passion for painting using his emotions; this painting depicts the struggles that Courbet had faced during his life. A genius artist struggling for recognition and for a bite to eat to get him through the day, that was Gustave Courbet. (7.1)

“To be in a position to translate the customs, the ideas, the appearance of my time, according to my own estimation; to be not only a painter, but a man as well; in short, to create living art—this is my goal.” Wrote by Courbet in 1855, notwithstanding that when the artist undertook his apprehensive painting he was just a young man without a platform trying so hard to build his reputation. Keeping in mind that he was a young artist with an eager artist with a drive to become successful and famous, through all that he was still looking for his inventive identity. He still was disappointed by the amount of rejections he got from all the art galleries. Although Courbet does not consider himself a romantic painter most of his paintings including “The Desperate Man” are full of romantic characteristics, the painting depicts wily, bold, ambitious, determined, radical, fear, and anxiety. The topic behind his painting is to express his emotions and feelings to the viewers; he also shows that he is panicked and lost within his own thoughts, his eyebrows depict a concerned facial expression.

The light in this painting symbolises his emotions where the light only hits his arm and the darkness is on his face, which is the shadow. The colors that are featured in this painting are point to romanticism, giving a dark vibe and a grey/brown chromatic background.

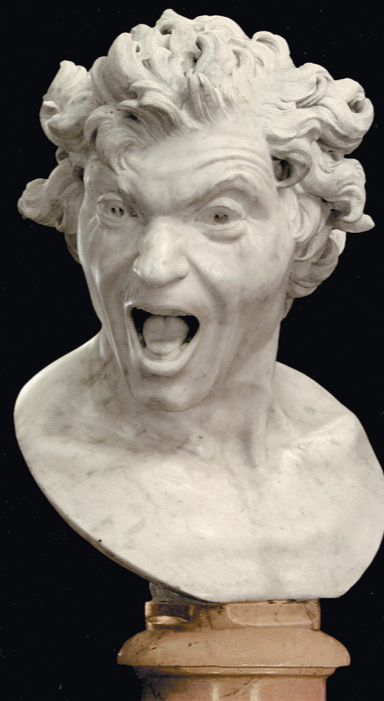
Different from romantics Courbet did not use soft forms and smooth lines, he instead used rough painting strokes to create a texture for the painting.

Courbet was an extraordinary individual that would do the impossible to get his way; he would push himself to the maximum limits to have quality work done in such short time. An impeccable example for that is his portrait “The Desperate Man”, Courbet is gazing into the viewer's eyes; interacting with the viewer like no other artwork would in any museum. Courbet wanted the viewers attention and he got it, he made his presence acknowledgeable and we know he got the job done because Courbet's painting is known worldwide till this day. As I said, this painting is pouring with mixed emotions, anxiety, fear, and much more. Courbet was a contentious artist that had successfully changed the way people in his time look at art. “a painting representing Courbet with a desperate expression and that he had entitled Despair for this reason”. Was a quote said by Dr. Paul Collin who was with Courbet during his last days, and he says that this quote describes Courbet's studio and specifically “le désespéré”.



The Desperate Man is known to be the most dramatic achievement of Courbet since he featured himself in this painting and was full of emotion and was somewhat dramatic, sad to others and aggressive to others but in the end everyone had his or her own opinion on him. The colors that Courbet specifically used in his paintings were cool tones and warm tones but he chose just the right shades to give that amazing dramatic effect. Courbet started to succeed when no more than 10 of his paintings were displayed at the salon of 1848 and was receiving really good comments from critics and got the that he wanted enthusiasm from the viewers. One of his career breakthroughs is when his painting “ After Dinner at Ornans ” captured Delacroix attention which lead to the state buying it. The painting was very simple and was about Courbet and his family sitting around a table relaxing after enjoying a family dinner while one of them played the violin in this painting Courbet states that he was inspired by Rembrandt because of the colors and style he used to make the painting and was almost similar to Rembrandt's style. (3.6)

Cultural context on “
Damned Soul”



Compare and contrast of interpretations of functions and purposes



“The Desperate Man” has totally different emotions than “Damned Soul”, while “The Desperate Man” has an expression of fear and he also looks surprised but on the other hand “Damned Soul” expresses scared emotions and fearful faces as well as hurt. The artworks were obviously made in different decades whereas Bernini based his artwork on a concept but Courbet’s intention was to capture viewers



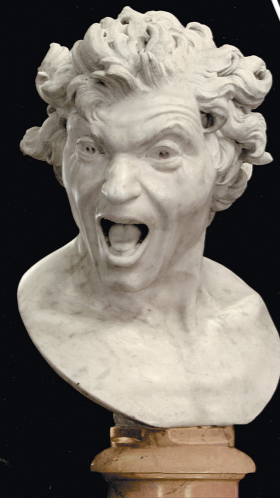
with the emotions. Both artworks are have a purpose of expressing emotions and both artworks have a deeper meaning “ le désespère “ was to express the dramatic face expressions and “damned soul “ was a sculpture representing damnation, a soul leaving a human body and going to hell.

Both artists preferred using dull colors and both artists wanted to capture emotions with the artwork and grab the viewers attention both artworks were painted in different eras but both artworks had a movement in common, romanticism.

“Girl With a Pearl Earring”, “Le Désespère”, and “Damned Soul” all have a thing in common which is the theme; all artworks show different identities and different concepts yet they all seem similar although they are from completely different eras yet “Girl With a Pearl Earring” and “Le Désespère” share a movement which is romanticism. “Le Depèsepèrè” and “Damned Soul” also share a movement which is baroque art. My point is that all three artworks are connected in more than one way.

“The desperate man” is a self portrait, and self portraits were really a thing back in the 1840’s. Portraits were also a thing during the 1660’s but the culture that each artist was in was different, in Vermeer’s time he wanted to create mysteries and leave the viewer with unanswered questions rather than just painting a self portrait, he wanted the painting to tell a story and make the viewer have his/her own answer, therefore he painted a tronie. Although “ le désespéré “ is known as a self portrait and the point was to draw himself, but, in all reality Courbet was trying to capture emotions and face expressions and the drama.

Both artworks share the same movement, baroque art, and they were created in similar cultures Dutch and Italian. They were also created in the same decade, only 46 years apart and have similar mind sets beliefs.



“Damned soul” was based on a concept of weather; a soul would reach the depths of the earth or the heavens and had a match sculpture called “blessed soul” which is the opposite of “Damned Soul” meaning. While “Girl With a Pearl Earring” was not based on a concept it was manily based on creating mysteries and questions while “Damned Soul” somewhat expressed emotions, the artist used his face as a refrence to the sculpture but “Girl With a Pearl Earring” was modeled by another women.



Formal analysis through elements of art of colors and value

The lightness or darkness of tones or colors. White is the lightest value; black is the darkest. The value halfway between these extremes is called middle gray.

An element of art made up of three properties: hue, value, and intensity.

Girl with a Pearl Earring



Each color and the meaning behind it differs depending on where it is on the painting. Vermeer mostly used dull colors in a fair amount of his paintings, but he used the colors in his own creative way and came up with world wide masterpieces which can not be compared to others' use of colors. The artist originally painted the background a really dark shade of green with a wash of black, dark backgrounds at that time were used very often and the reason was to bring out the portrait in the painting and make it look more three dimensional. Coming from a psychology of color perspective, dark green represents growth, freshness, harmony, and fertility and it is also commonly associated with money and it is known to be the most restful color a human can see an addition to that is in some cases green could improve one's vision. Discussing the fact that the artist used a wash of black is that as black may be mostly known to be a symbol of evil but it is also a symbol of power and I think that is why Vermeer chose to leave a tint of black in the background; to show that because of how powerful this painting is and how much emotions it keeps it attracts viewers. Vermeer chose blue as the choice of color for her turban, but why blue? As blue is favored by many people is symbolized the feeling of calmness and serenity. It is also seen as a sign of reliability and stability but why did Vermeer use different shades of blue? Because using one shade of blue, one, won't look as flattering, two, it won't make the painting look three dimensional.

The Desperate Man



Courbet has chose a monochromatic color pallet for this painting, he used different values of brown and grey and had intensified colors in some places more than the other. He also, like a lot of famous artists of his time liked to use dull colors

Damned Soul



<http://www.galleryintell.com/artex/the-desperate-man-gustave-courbet/> (3.4)

<http://syndrome-de-stendhal.blogspot.com/2015/01/es-ist-zum-haareraufen-gustave-courbets.html> 3.1

<https://>

artschaft.wordpress.com/

<https://artschaft.wordpress.com/>

[.com/](https://artschaft.wordpress.com/)

[2018/02/07/](https://artschaft.wordpress.com/)

[7/](https://artschaft.wordpress.com/)

[gustave-](https://artschaft.wordpress.com/)

[courbet-](https://artschaft.wordpress.com/)

[the-](https://artschaft.wordpress.com/)

[desperate](https://artschaft.wordpress.com/)

[-](https://artschaft.wordpress.com/)

[man-1844](https://artschaft.wordpress.com/)

[-1845/](https://artschaft.wordpress.com/) 3.6

<https://www.biography.com/people/gustave-courbet-9259220> 3.2 3.3

<http://www.essentialvermeer.com/catalogue/girl-with-a-pearl-earring.html#.W8Qn2y-B1pk> 2.1

<https://curiator.com/art/gustave-courbet/self-portrait-with-black-dog> 3.1

<http://www.essentialvermeer.com/catalogue/milkmaid.html> 2.2

<https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/rijksstudio/artists/johannes-vermeer> <https://>

[www.biography.com/people/jan-vermeer-9517541](https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/rijksstudio/artists/johannes-vermeer) 2.3

[https://vermeer0708.wordpress.com/johannes-vermeer's-\"the-milkmaid\"-](https://vermeer0708.wordpress.com/johannes-vermeer's-\)

<https://www.artistsnetwork.com/art-history/oil-painting-gustave-courbet-the-desperate-man-1844-1845/>

[an-article-by-daniel-vergara/](https://www.artistsnetwork.com/art-history/oil-painting-gustave-courbet-the-desperate-man-1844-1845/) 2.4

[realist/](https://www.artistsnetwork.com/art-history/oil-painting-gustave-courbet-the-desperate-man-1844-1845/) (3.6)

<http://www.girl-with-a-pearl-earring.info/tronie.htm> 2.5

<https://mymodernmet.com/vermeer-the-girl-with-the-pearl-earring/> 2.6

<https://www.artble.com/artists/johannes-vermeer/more-information/>

[biography](https://www.artble.com/artists/johannes-vermeer/more-information/) 2.7, 2.8

<https://www.biography.com/people/gustave-courbet-9259220> 3.7

<https://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/johannes-vermeer-6197.php> 2.9

<https://artschaft.wordpress.com/2018/02/07/gustave-courbet-the-desperate-man-1844-1845/> 3.5

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Gian-Lorenzo-Bernini> (4.3)

<https://www.theartstory.org/artist-bernini-giovanni-lorenzo-life-and-legacy.htm> (4.3)

<https://burtoncoboards.wordpress.com/the-blessed-soul-and-the-damned-soul/> 4.5

<https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-bernini-captured-power-human-sexuality-stone> 4.6/8

<https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2015/06/04/bernini-he-had-touch/> 4.5

<https://romanticportraitsblog.wordpress.com/2014/10/10/gustave-courbet-the-desperate-man-self-portrait-1844-45-oil-paint-45-cm-x-55-cm/> 7.1/.2/.3/.4/.5

<https://ericbourdon.com/news/2018/02/13/desperate-man-gustave-courbet/> 7.5