



AP Art History 2000 Student Samples

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7. These two paintings depict similar subjects. Which work is earlier? Explain your choice, comparing and contrasting the two images. (10 minutes)

The Madonna and Child is a religious subject matter common from early Byzantine / Middle Ages through modern times. The depiction on the left is clearly several centuries older than that on the right. Although a sense of depth was attempted through clustering and use of architectural space - the inadequate knowledge of foreshortening and point perspective reduces this illusion to minimal. The stronger yellow tinge is also an indicator of age as the off coloration is a result of the use of egg tempera, while the rich colors of the full round figure on the right are not yellowed. The unnatural composition of the Madonna and the man-like child also indicate age. The Madonna here is the queen of heaven - sitting high on her throne in a static 3/4 view. The gold halos is common of gothic art.

The Natural humanistic approach to Madonna + Child of RE indicates a later movement of art. The forms are round and real composed naturally in a variety of movement - not stiff like the earlier. The love between Mary + Jesus in a worldly motherly love - Mary is real. The harsh usage of the numbers is also gone and replaced by familiarity. A ~~strong~~ sense of depth has been established w/ atmospheric perspective, accurate foreshortening + separate.

7. These two paintings depict similar subjects. Which work is earlier? Explain your choice, comparing and contrasting the two images. (10 minutes)

Both the piece by Cimabue (on the left) and the Small Cowper Madonna (right) depict the Virgin Mary holding the Christ child. Cimabue's piece is the earlier of the two, and this is shown by the more advanced use of shadow in the Cowper Madonna. The figures appear more rounded and ~~more~~ naturalistically portrayed in the Cowper Madonna ~~in~~ in contrast with somewhat flat-looking figures in Cimabue's Virgin and Child Enthroned. This is another characteristic of these paintings that leads ~~to~~ the viewer to see Cimabue's as an earlier work, ~~than the Cowper Madonna~~. Also, ~~Cimabue's~~ Virgin and Child Enthroned has much less depth than the Cowper Madonna.