



## AP Art History 2000 Student Samples

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## Question 9

- Picasso (analytical cubism)

Munch, the Scream

↳ ~~Vietin + Patette~~  
LES DESMOISELLES  
d'Arignon

Seurat?  
Sunday afternoon at  
La Grande Jatte

Klimt The Kiss

9. Many artists radically transform actual observation and experience in order to express their unique artistic vision. Select TWO works, each by a different artist. Discuss ways in which each artist has radically transformed observed reality in order to achieve a personal vision. (30 minutes)

The ability of the artist to create his own meaning in the art that he creates is the essence of art. Many artists radically transform actual observation & experience in order to express their unique artistic vision. Pablo Picasso, an artist who excelled in finding new ways to depict ~~new~~ controversial themes, painted Les Desmoiselles d'Arignon with the knowledge that he was applying analytical cubism to a scandalous subject matter. Before him, ~~Seurat's divisionist piece Sunday Afternoon~~ Klimt's The Kiss was an impressionist piece that took the viewer beyond the physical realm, trying to illustrate emotions in shape & form. Thus, ~~Picasso's Les Desmoiselles d'Arignon~~ ~~and~~ Klimt's The Kiss & Picasso's Les Desmoiselles d'Arignon were pieces in which the artist radically altered his perspective of a natural subject.

In Klimt's The Kiss, transforming a kiss between two lovers into an almost abstract view of emotions is Klimt's vision. The man & woman are in a loving embrace & kissing. The man is depicted using a simple body outline and geometric shapes and sharp edges to symbolize his masculinity & pride. The woman is characterized by organic forms and flowery imagery. ~~They~~ However different their components are, whether jagged or sinewy, the couple's form is one. There is no gap between the two lovers, symbolizing how their spirits have joined as one in this spirit of passion. The anatomical outlines are barely seen, for perhaps Klimt sees a higher vision in what is true love, a love that knows no boundaries where you truly understand your counterpart. However, the couple sits on a precipice, so close to falling off a cliff into the dangerous abyss that came with uncontrolled passion and broken hearts. ~~He~~ Klimt seems to leave it up to the viewer whether the couple will truly make it in this world. The environment that surrounds the two lovers is very bland & dull compared to the warm colors used in the couple's embrace. Thus, Klimt conveys his feelings about true love and passion through The Kiss, a piece whose radical quality to forget formal conventions of proportions in lieu of emotions and spiritual meanings wins it true vision.

## Question 9

MonetReims Cathedral  
diff. lightingChagallI and the Village  
Russian farm town

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Transforming reality into art is different for each artist. Monet's paintings of Reims Cathedral was done in a way only Monet could do. Chagall's I and the Village takes his personal ~~life~~ life experiences and uniquely places them in an abstract form.

Claude Monet was obsessed with light. As a major artist of Impressionism, he painted his view of Reims, and was not concerned about others' views. Monet laid out several canvases on easels and as the day light changed, he changed canvases. His personal vision was to be able to portray how light effected Reims' shadows and highlights, and not necessarily ~~what the subject~~ concerned with the details of the structure itself.

Marc Chagall lived in and experienced ~~a~~ a small farming town in Russia. This life was all he knew.

He was an artist of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and he used his modern way of painting to radically transform his observed reality. "I and the Village" is a complex painting expressing his personal vision. The large green face seems to be staring lovingly at the large cow head.

Inside the cow head is a milk-maid, suggesting the man is in love with her and is offering her a gift. There are several houses in the background as well as a church. Many of them are upside-down. Perhaps he experienced turmoil in the village. There is also a priest in the painting.

~~The~~ The painting is very symbolic, and perhaps Chagall is the only one who knows what the painting means. "I and the Village" is definitely ~~a~~ his reality turned into a personal ~~vision~~ vision.

Personal vision is just that, personal. ~~Transforming~~ Transforming reality into that personal vision is quite a different process for each artist. Monet's Reims Cathedral ~~Expresses~~ Expresses his personal vision through an obsession with light.

Chagall's "I and the Village" takes his personal experiences in a small village and expresses them through various symbols and designs. ~~Achieving~~ Achieving personal vision from reality is a unique experience.

Vincent  
Starry  
Nights  
Van Gogh

## Question 9

CC1



~ persistence in  
memory  
- Salvador Dali.  
Surrealist

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The 1st piece or work that I choose was Starry Nights painted by Vincent Van Gogh. He was a very interesting artist and his life was center and central to his entire life. While growing up he had a hard life and often struggled with many different things. Van Gogh was somewhat of an impressionist painter but he twisted impressionism to fit his personality and style - he was very edgy and didn't like sitting for long periods of time. Today it sounds like he had attention deficit disorder. He was also a very interesting man with ideas that seemed strange and often unheard of. Van Gogh often would paint as his job - he never held any other jobs than his painting - unfortunately he never was able to sell anything and was

pretty much poor all of his life. Because he was poor he would often go without food and shelter - but his brother enjoyed Vincent's Art and wouldn't have had it any other way. Vincent's brother paid for his food & rent - and many times Vincent's painting supplies (which are expensive). What a awesome brother - I wish I had one like that. Also - Vincent was never very emotionally stable - often times he was put in a asylum and more than once he was the one who admitted himself. It was in an asylum that he painted *Starry Nights*. The texture on this painting is very rough and often when Van Gogh would paint he would be very ~~impatient~~ impatient and didn't want to wait for the time it took to squeeze the paint out of the tube or to the palette and then onto his brush and so on - till the painting. Because he was so impatient, Van Gogh would often squeeze the paint ~~onto~~ onto the canvas and that still wasn't fast enough for him - so - he wouldn't even bother to grab a paint brush - he would just use his hands - (the best painting tools of all.) Van Gogh - said and knew that he was very disturbed in fact - at one time when he was mad he cut off his ear and later he committed suicide. Vincent ~~was~~ never famous when he was

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alive and would probably be very surprised that today his paintings are worth millions & why are they worth so much & I think it is because in each of his paintings no matter what material thing is painted it truly is his own emotion and feelings that are really painted. They are just sometimes hidden and disguised & just like he was. The second work I chose was Salvador Dali's - Persistence of Memory. This painting defiantly shows character and his (Dali's) character of course. Salvador Dali was a very normal man and lived his life just like anyone - he just liked to paint and not just anything. Dali's imagination went into each one of his paintings. Even in some of his works you can not identify what everything is. Dali was a surrealist and painted things as he saw them and not how they were supposed to look. Dali was one artist that helped surrealism become famous and popular. Dali often enjoyed painting at his kitchen table & he didn't like painting in the studio & so he stayed at home. Dali seemed to twist every

thing into something extraordinary, something that was always eye catching, stirring, and unusual. People are often shocked or surprised by the nature of his paintings. His paintings too are worth very much and it wasn't because of what he painted or how well liked his paintings were or were. He is in every one of his paintings and not in the physical sense - but his personality is incorporated into each one of his works of art.