

Signature Assignment

The work I will be providing commentary on is *The Story Behind Lies Behind the Eyes* by Valorie T. Rose. This is an acrylic painting completed in the year 2024. The gallery this piece was found in was the Eccles Community Art Center in Ogden, Utah.



The lines in the painting are going in different directions and are mostly diagonal. This combination creates a feeling of movement and uneasiness in the painting. This is accompanied by the geometric shapes that the lines around the eye create. These geometric lines create a harsh

feel that add to the uneasiness created by the diagonal lines. The use of these harsh lines and geometric shapes on an area that is traditionally soft, the area around the eye, furthers the sense in the viewer that there is something wrong. These elements make the viewer wonder why the eye is surrounded by such disarray and adds to an emotional feel in the piece.

The texture of the paint continues to add to the feeling of unease and unrest. There are visible brushstrokes in the painting, and areas where the canvas shines through. These features add to the illusion that the eye is surrounded by some rough and sharp surroundings. This texture also represents some of the pain that the owner of the eye is feeling. The sharp feeling that it portrays is one that would hurt, especially on such delicate skin.

This piece utilizes a dark blue monochromatic color palette. The use of the deep blue with gray and black adds an atmosphere of sadness to the painting. This sadness is what is causing the pain in the eye, shown by the inclusion of the blue in the iris. Blue, especially darker blues, are commonly associated with these negative feelings of sadness and pain, which is why this color combination works so well with the painting as a whole. The feeling of hopelessness given by the eye provides a powerful message to the viewer about the state of mind of the artist or of the subject of the art.

Ross uses light and shadows to further the emotional message of this piece. The use of darker paints and colors under the eyes to create a shadow effect that emphasizes the sadness and loss of hope in the piece. This shadowing pulls down the painting to make it feel heavy and weighty, but also adds to the tired feeling of the eye as it resembles the bags that form under the

eyes of a tired person. This use of shadows to enhance the sad atmosphere is contradicted by the highlights in the eyes. If the eye was truly hopeless, the eye would be completely dark without any highlight, but the eyes do have a highlight. This light combined with the positioning of the eyes, namely looking up, makes the viewer feel a semblance of hope for the eye, that there may be something to look up to that reduces the feeling of the shadows. This imagery plays into the title of the piece, *The Story Lies Beneath the Eyes*, as it encourages the viewer to see what is happening inside and beneath the eyes instead of just what is around them.

This piece uses unity and variety to clarify the message that it is sharing. The color palette promotes a sense of unity and harmony in the painting, and aids the somber feeling of the painting. The lines, although varying individually, are all in the same style. This adds to the feeling of chaos that the feeling gives as each line is different. This mixture of chaos and harmony reflects the chaos and harmony that is felt internally in all people.

The focal point of the pieces is the eye in the center. The larger than life scale of this eye contributes to its importance in the painting. Eyes are traditionally known as the, “windows to the soul” and portray a lot of emotion. This idea is reinforced by the title of the piece, *The Story Lies Beneath the Eyes*. There is something behind the eyes that is not apparent to the viewer until they look closer at the piece and take the time to understand the symbolism.

I have had an increased appreciation for art over the semester. I have been able to better detect the meaning and symbolism behind each work of art that I see. Seeing this has helped me to appreciate the work that has gone into the art, and appreciate the meaning that it must have for

the artist to put in that effort. Creating a piece of art that represents something intangible, like a feeling, is an immensely difficult task, and this class has helped me to realize that.

I feel that I can understand the purpose and communication behind art. I now understand the meaning that art pieces are trying to convey to me and the symbolism that is used to do that. I also understand why those messages are so important. There are some thoughts and feelings that are too deep and too nebulous to be truly described by words, and art serves as a conduit for those thoughts and expressions to pass through.

Art enhances my life because it allows me to see the beauty in the mundane. To truly enjoy life and find happiness, one must learn how to find enjoyment from their surroundings. Art is a great way to start doing that. When someone can notice the beauty of a statue or the comfort of a portrait, they can start to see the elements that make those pieces so magnificent in their everyday lives. In my own case, I have been able to notice the beauty of the landscapes around me more, which has enhanced my life. I have been able to appreciate the beauty of architecture and the beauty of machines. This appreciation has led me to a higher level of happiness.

I have learned how to identify different mediums, eras, styles, and cultures in art. These skills have helped me to appreciate the different artworks that I see around me, and have helped me to be more cultured myself. Understanding the background and context that different pieces of art exist in has helped me to understand the context for many different art pieces, and even historical events.

These skills give me an advantage as a computer science major because they help me understand how a person might interact with the software and programs I develop. When

working on a user interface, it is important to consider the aesthetic appearance of it so that people enjoy using the software.