

Paul Gauguin Manao Tupapau

The image depicts a female nude laying on some sort of bed in the bottom half of the painting, with another figure in left part. The figure is hard to make out, but it is possible to see that it is wearing a cloak. The color usage has a high contrast and helps to add to the overall impression of the piece.

This primitive piece is highly expressive and emotional and, I am reading the message of defiance. The female nude is depicted as more of a whorish woman than a model. This idea is further emphasised by her facial expression and body language, which are both very seductive. Also, the background figure shows shock and disappointment for the woman. I know that artists in this century were trying to challenge the social norms, and Gauguin does just that. He has shown the idea on, yet another level.

The use of color and its higher contrast shows that this is a piece of high importance. It would stand out in any contemporary art gallery. In fact, the piece challenges other modern work of the time. It tends to express the overall mood that it is modern art, and everything else is not. By looking at the overall mood, the contrast between emotion between the two figures, and the contrast of color within the entire piece, it is clear that Manao Tupapau is challenging everything that art has stood for.

It resembles many other famous works; however, is unique in its own regard due to the new effect which is presented.

Pablo Picasso Les Demoiselles d'Avignon

Many different shapes and forms are used in this painting. I see all of them as separate paintings making up the entire painting. Five human forms, or remembrances of them, can be counted. I would guess that three are male and two are female, although I do not see any significance, at first. The color usage is very welcoming, with a majority of the colors being warm.

Although the message being communicated can have many interpretations, I was unsure of where to begin, so I looked up the meaning of the title. It translates to the ladies of Avignon, which I find startling because many of the human forms have very masculine forms. Whereas most depict a woman in an hourglass shape, many are shown in the traditional inverted triangle of a man. Perhaps this is trying to challenge the idea of women feminism. Maybe even, it is showing the idea that a woman should be equal to a man in every way, including appearance if desired.

Oddly, I am welcomed into the painting. Normally, an abnormal sight would be an immediate turn-off for anyone, as that is a natural reaction. This painting; however odd, shows that an abnormal sight can be accepted as much as the commonly accepted normal idea. It is very pleasing to look at, due to the fact that the repetition of form and shape is prevalent throughout the entire painting. In each individual sector of the painting, an in-depth analysis could show that the entire thing is made up of fragments.

This concept of individual ideas making up the entire societal value as whole could be interpreted as a metaphor of what should really be accepted and what should really be turned away.