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CH 202

Response 2

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Group 1, Question A

Gender is traditionally defined as “the state of being male or female”. Doña Catalina de Erauso exemplified someone who wanted to be, and indeed forcefully took on the role of a male in her time. She constructed her masculine identity through her actions by stealing, fighting, killing, and even leading troops. A great example of how she took on this identity was during a battle, “Now badly wounded in the leg, I killed the chief who carried the flag, took it from him, and spurred my horse on, trampling wounding, and killing to infinity” (De Erauso ch. 6). Arguably, she may have taken her masculine identity to a hyperbolic level by engaging in activity like this, but she seems to have been more comfortable this way. During the time in which she lived, none of what she did was considered normal activity for a woman of any age. She was an outlier, but refused to let society’s preconceived ideas of gender force her to live in a way she found unsuitable.

Group 2, Question A

Montaigne talks about how Europeans viewed these people in a way not dissimilar to how Catalina de Erauso treated gender, as a social construct. At one point he states that “They are savages at the same rate that we say fruit are wild, which nature produces of herself and by her own ordinary progress” (Montaigne). He repeatedly makes a point that these so-called “barbarians” might be living in what is the closest to a utopian society he has ever seen. Montaigne seems to feel that the only reason Europeans think they are any better than these “barbarians” is simply because of the social constructs they have built for themselves.

Group 3, Question C

Francis Bacon's promotion of inductive reasoning had many flaws compared to Rene Descartes' promotion of deductive reasoning. Inductive reasoning suggests that you can infer something general from something specific, which today we know is mostly incorrect way of going about things. This is because of the very nature of inheritance. A square is a rectangle but a rectangle isn't necessarily a square. Deductive reasoning came along to fix this issue, reversing the way that the reasoning was formed. We can use deductive reasoning to infer specific instances from general laws.

Group 4

The *Portrait of Louis XIV* by Charles Poerson is a perfect example of Baroque style. It was finished in 1667, right in the middle of the Baroque movement. It depicts Louis sitting on a throne, with lavish red curtains above him. He is the definition of grandeur as he sits above what appears to be a defeated soldier, while he grasps flaming lightning bolts in his right hand. In the background there is a dramatic scene of a man holding a hammer, wearing very cheap cloth. He seems to represent someone working for Louis. The lighting is focused on Louis, specifically on his face, luscious hair, and his exuberant armor. In the background we see almost heavenly cloud formations, but they are darker than Louis. All of these aspects work together to highlight Louis and draw emotion from the viewer.

Works Cited

- De Erauso, Catalina. "Early Americas Digital Archive." The Autobiography of Doña Catalina De Erauso. N.p., 2007. Web. 18 Sept. 2016.
- Montaigne, Michel De, Charles Cotton, and Salvador Dalí. Essays of Michel De Montaigne. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1947. Print.
- Poerson, Charles. Portrait of Louis XIV. 1648-1667. N.p.