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91181A



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NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

QUALIFY FOR THE FUTURE WORLD
KIA NOHO TAKATŪ KI TŌ ĀMUA AO!

SUPERVISOR'S USE ONLY

Level 2 Art History, 2016

91181 Examine the meanings conveyed by art works

9.30 a.m. Tuesday 22 November 2016
Credits: Four

ANSWER BOOKLET

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Examine the meanings conveyed by art works.	Examine in depth the meanings conveyed by art works.	Examine critically the meanings conveyed by art works.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

Answer ONE question from Question Booklet 91181Q. Write your answer in this booklet.

If you need more room for any answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–8 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Low Merit

TOTAL

5

ASSESSOR'S USE ONLY

Question Number: 3

(a) **First Plate:** Rodin, Gates of Hell, 1880 - ~~1885~~ 1890, bronze.

The first ~~part~~ motif in the artwork ~~pose~~ I have chosen is pose. The artwork depicts a man in the center of the top section sitting on a rock. The man is in a pose of deep thought, with a hand on his chin, crouching over. This figure is the poet Dante who wrote about the 7 layers of hell. In the ~~story~~ sculpture Dante is sitting outside the gates of hell contemplating and thinking about where he is and what he is about to do. His pose is unnatural, which helps to show that what he is thinking is deep, and not too pleasant. Dantes pose shows the suffering he is about to endure, as he enters Hell.

Another motif in the artwork I have chosen is suffering. Below the figure of Dante is the different levels of Hell. Inside them human figures show pain and torture that they endure without end. Rodin has shown this with twisted human forms with distorted faces, missing limbs and fire. The motif

Second Plate:

of suffering is used to show the meaning, eternal punishment in Hell. //

ASSESSOR'S
USE ONLY

My final ~~most~~ motif is death. In the top section of the artwork, where Dante sits contemplating, he is surrounded by the dead. ~~Bodies~~ Bodies lay on the ground around him, figures disappear into the background and there are a number of skulls and skeletons. Rodin is showing the meaning of how according to Dante's poem the damned wait at the gates of Hell waiting to enter and begin their eternal suffering. //

The symbols/motifs I have discussed are all used to show the meaning of the artwork, The Gates of Hell. The whole sculpture is based on Dante and his version of Hell and Rodin has expressed this in his work. //

(b)

Plate 2: Gericault, Raft of the Medusa, 1819, oil on canvas

In my chosen artwork the first ^{motif} ~~symbol~~ is pose. The figures on the right hand side of the composition are all reaching out with their hands towards the horizon, where there is a ship. This shows how all the men on the raft are desperate for aid and helps to show the meaning of Gericault's composition. The painting depicts ~~are~~ a raft that has been built by sailors after their ship came apart in a storm and they have had to survive the sea, ~~either~~ each other and starvation. Their desperate pose shows the hardship and suffering they have been through.

Another symbol in the artwork is the axe in the bottom left hand corner of the ~~raft~~ raft. This symbol represents how the ~~men~~ men had to eat parts of the dead to survive ~~starvation~~ starvation. On the raft the sailors ~~had~~ had to cut body parts of the already deceased or even still alive, sick and dying sailors. Without ~~the~~ painting too much graphic detail Gericault can show the suffering these sailors have had to go through in order to survive.

My final symbol in my artwork is the colour red. Found on the clothes of some sailors and on the deck of the raft. The colour red is used by Gericault to show the violence and bloodshed.

that took place on the ~~raft~~ ~~a~~ raft. According to the story sailors had to fight for their lives during their time on the ~~the~~ raft. Gericault shows the ~~individual~~ suffering of the individuals on the raft by doing so. //

Gericault painted Raft of the Medusa because it is based on something that really happened, it is a true story. He has used the symbols/motifs I have ~~the~~ talked ~~to~~ about in order to tell the story of the sailors on that raft. Out of the 150 people who began on the raft only 30 made ~~it~~ it out alive. Gericault has shown their suffering with the help of symbols/motifs. //

MS.

05

This response is M5 because the student has explained the meaning of each work with clear reference to specific symbols/motifs. To reach an M6 the student would need to explain the aims of the artists in conveying these meanings.

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High Merit

TOTAL

6

ASSESSOR'S USE ONLY

Question Number: THREE

(a) **First Plate:**

In Rodin's sculpture 'Gates of Hell' symbols and motifs are used to convey ~~importance~~ important ideas about depictions of human suffering.

The use of the nude as a motif in 'Gates' can be seen throughout the sculpture. Nearly all the figures in the upper center panel ^{are} nude, in positions of agony.* Rodin uses these forms in the frieze to show the vulnerability of humanity in suffering.

The thinking man at the center of the frieze shows a resigned composure, symbolising an understanding of the suffering of his people, and a loss of hope.

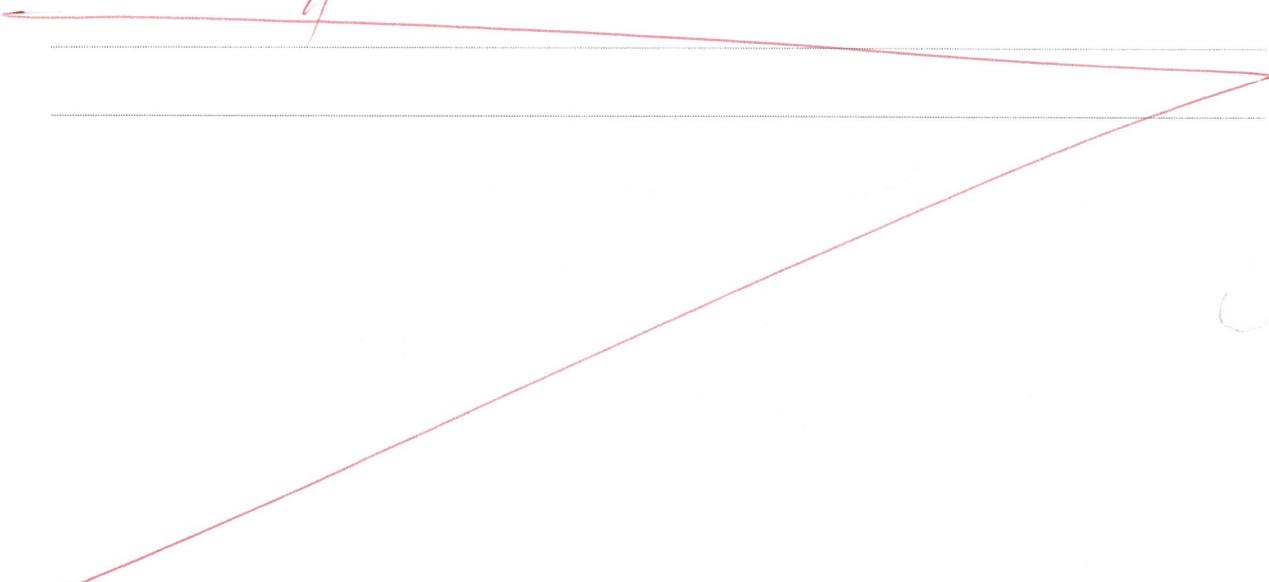
Within the far right of the ~~frieze~~ panel is a skeletal figure, who is being grasped by the other humans, who represents death. Alongside him is a roaring, goat headed figure who can be interpreted as Satan, ruling over the Hell sculpted by Rodin. These figures are all instruments in the suffering the sculpture predicts, ~~conveying~~

* as seen in the figure of the women in the left of the panel and the contorted form below her.

Second Plate:

'Raft of the Medusa' by Gericault shows human suffering through the use of symbols and motifs, conveying the scale of suffering and our reaction to it. //

The pyramidal composition leads to two men on the right of the painting, one is emaciated and shirtless. He waves his torn clothes at a nearby passing ship in an attempt at getting the raft rescued. Towards the center-left of the scene is an older man, whose pose omits a contrasting image of stoic, lost hope as he clutches his dead sons body. These two figures symbolically represent the degrees of response to human suffering. Gericault uses the motif of the male nude to show the vulnerability of humans in suffering. This can be seen in the emaciated, sinewy forms surrounding the edges of the boat. The axe in the right corner is a symbol for the cannibalism rumoured to have occurred on the raft, and the limits of human endurance. //



(b)

The use of the nude motif to show vulnerability in suffering is used by Rodin to communicate the idea of Hell. The figures are nude, no longer able to lie or deceive their way out, they must confront the Hell waiting for them as they have sinned. This may be a reference to the tumultuous formation of the Second French Republic, in which 10,000 died. The roaring figure of Satan also ~~shows~~ furthers this idea, as the ^{human} figures cower from his form, showing they are being punished. *As the figures crowd the skeleton, grasping at its bones, it shows Rodin's idea that in suffering - even deserved - humanity ~~pr~~ yearns for death. The meaning of the thinking man, composed in contrast to his agonized counterparts, is to depict the resignation of guilt and understanding of suffering. Rodin's thinking man shows composure in his loss of hope, and seems to ponder on his ~~loss of~~ fate and the fate of his peers, whose panic and denial *only seems to push them further into their suffering. Rodin's 'Gates of Hell' ~~is used~~ uses symbols and motifs to ~~convey the~~ ^{show the meaning of the} different ways in which humans suffer, and how our response to why we are suffering can impact its degree of effect. It references the devastating formation of the Second Republic and the guilt of the French people //

* This may be a reference to the fights between government officers and the people themselves.

* of their role in the fighting that brought them to hell

For Gericault uses the symbol of the man waving the flag to depict the idea of never giving up in times of suffering. This contrasts greatly with the old man in the middle, who's lost son symbolises the finality of his suffering and his resignation of his fate, as he faces away from potential rescue.

These two figures can be seen as the divide in French society over Napoleons new rule over France government, as the painting is of a contemporary event which caused anger against a government which seemed to not care for its people. The nude motif is used to show the vulnerability of humans in times of suffering, in which they have nothing left but themselves. This natural state links to how France as a country had been tumultuously reborn through countless revolutions - the people were raw. The axe is used by Gericault to link to the cannibalism that happened allegedly on the raft. It symbolizes the stretches of human endurance and the survival instinct encountered by those suffering. This shows how France is willing to kill its own and destroy itself in order to survive and become better as a country.

The meanings of the symbols and motifs used in the 'Raft of the Medusa' by Gericault communicate a tired and suffering France dissatisfied with both its past and future. They show the scale of human suffering and the different responses it accumulates.

06

This M6 response explains the meaning of each work as well as the aims of both artists in conveying the meaning of human suffering through in depth examination of specific symbols/motifs. Better understanding of context and perception in interpreting the meanings are required for Excellence level.