Your Name

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Date

Artwork Review

**Starry Night by Vincent Van Gogh**

Starry Night, a painting by Vincent Van Gogh, carries various contrast in it, and contrasts are essential in paintings because they draw a contemporary viewer to finding it beautiful. A viewer will find a contrast of calm city coupled with the contrast of horizontal and vertical lines in Vincent’s painting. The painting is a true manifestation of apocalyptic madness in the sky. In addition, a viewer can also observe the contrasts of different colors like yellow, blue, white, and the dark shape of cypress tree. In the end, the contrast in the subject of the painting actually catches the viewers’ eye (Paulson, 2014).

The painting can be looked at from the perspective of art history. Besides, “Starry Night" is a genius piece, because of many things. Firstly, it is a work of art that was way ahead of its time - it is a precursor for abstract painting (painted in 1889, while the first actual abstract painting was created in 1911), it was an expressionism before expressionism was even recognized as a style (at the beginning of 20th Century) . Secondly, it is a completely new approach to the subject - paintings showing night time were usually nocturnes, very dark, gloomy, mysterious, presenting night as a time of dreams and rest; and this painting represents night as a "living organism" (Paulson, 2014).

**Haystacks by Claude Monet**

Claude Monet painted prolifically, sometimes painting same haystacks at four different times of day to show how the light affected the image’s impression. His work defines the style more notably than any other French or English impressionist. The impressionist movement in the mid-19th century was a bold leap from traditional art styles of contemporary era. Artists like Monet sought to move away from the careful, muted scenes of mythology and history that were regularly painted. They wanted to express a new perspective of common, everyday scenes. These were captured in vivid hues and unusual angles that jumped out of the canvas.

Claude Monet produced not only a consistently high standard body of painting, he was also a brilliant formal innovator who, in advanced age, painted work that is regarded by some historians as a precursor to modernism. His series of the haystacks paintings are examples of both absolute focus and great painterly freedom. Monet’s haystacks painting captured all variable conditions in the environment that encapsulates the object. Haystacks are a true manifestation of the effects of variability in the environment.

# Works Cited

Paulson, D. N. (2014). *"Van Gogh, The Starry Night."* . Retrieved Sep 11, 2019, from Khan Academy: https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/becoming-modern/avant-garde-france/post-impressionism/a/van-gogh-the-starry-night