

Perception Exercise

Step 1: Describe the image. Don't jump to any conclusions. Don't draw an opinion yet. Include descriptions that would present a picture to someone who is not there.

Elements of the painting to look for include:

1. Gestures
2. Expressions: either facial or body language
3. Movement or stillness
4. Clothes, props
5. Light or dark and contrasts
6. Color
7. Space: near and far
8. Size: bigger or smaller
9. Gaze: who looks at whom
10. Touch
11. Symbols, scenery, background
12. Point of view
13. Inclusion /exclusion of figures in a group
14. Engagement with others or separation from others

Step 2: Draw conclusions. What do you think is going on in the image? What is the artist trying to convey?

Step 3: Compare your conclusions with what is known about the painting.