

## Composition Assignment 4

### Compose a Sketch

#### Objective

To expand and develop sketching technique options. Exploit one or more of these options by sketching a composition of choice.

#### Materials

Your choice.

#### Procedure

Fill out "Prepainting Inventory" sheet. Refer to handouts.

#### Criteria

Refer to "Prepainting Inventory" sheet convergence.

#### Evaluation

Based on selected criteria.



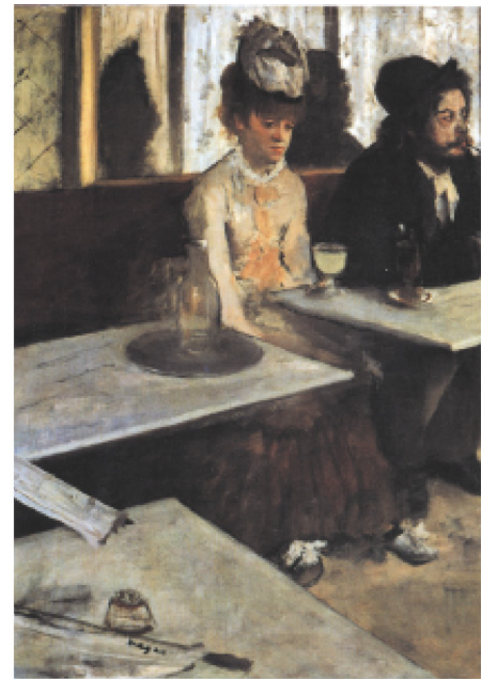
## One Man's Drink is ...

There are many things to be seen in a fine work of art. Most of us see what we know, not always what the artist intended. Those with little or no art training will first see subject matter, e.g., a man and woman having a drink (to the right) and a group of men dressed in Greek clothing in which one man is being offered a drink. (*The viewer may be unaware of the story of The Death of Socrates.*)

1. Objectively compare the two paintings by identifying how each artist develops his compositional idea through...

1. Space. 2. Form. 3. Light. 4. Value. 5. Color.  
6. Surface. 7. Edges. 8. Forming Process.  
(Example: Linear/Painterly) 9. Sense of time.

2. Based on the evidence uncovered through this analysis, what might we conclude about each artist's interpretation?



Edgar Degas *The Absinthe Drinkers*



Jacques-Louis David *The Death Of Socrates* 1787

# Composition Reflects Concept

*Compositional design may be prompted by any number of stimuli. Some of these might include faithful recording of a scene, capturing a mood or feeling or knowing what sells. (Sorry, but the ugly head of commercialism and survival must rise to the occasion.)*

*The following exercises are designed to make us conscious of the motive behind the composition, or linking concepts with the compositional plan.*

**What Does It Say To Me?** Compare the works of these two artists in terms of concepts you identify with each. These concepts may include literary, psychological, social and formal qualities. Record and explain your thoughts on a separate sheet of paper.

**What Do I See In This Subject?** Locate a Maui subject of your choosing. Become familiar with the subject with a conscious attempt to allow it to speak without preconceptions. Inventory your thoughts and feelings and compositional ideas. Take notes similar to those made in the first comparison. Do thumbnail sketches of the composition.

**Where Can I Find An Example?** Identify and list concepts and compositional ideas which you would like to pursue in your own work. Locate a subject to which you can apply one or more of the items on your list. Sketch the subject, letting the concept dictate the compositional plan.

Warm Up Exercise.

1. Draw a hungry rectangle.
2. Draw a relaxed rectangle.
3. Draw a ...
4. Draw a ...



Caillebotte



Reynolds