

feldman's method

how to look at art

there are **FOUR STEPS** to
feldman's method

Describe

Analyze

Interpret

Judge

what are the visual facts?

1. artist, title, date, medium

*2. what is happening in the artwork?
(descriptive sentence)*

3. what are the 3 most important elements of art you see?

describe

Starry Night, 1889, oil on canvas

Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890)



describe

1. Van Gogh, 'Starry Night' – 1889, oil on canvas
2. 'Starry Night' by Van Gogh is a night landscape painting of a town with a large tree in the foreground and a bright night sky filled with stars and a crescent moon in the background.

3. COLOR – Cool blues and greens make up the sky and town as well as warm yellows and whites that make up the stars and moon. Dark greens and blues make up the foreground tree and mountains in the background.

LINE – Short, curvy lines make up the sky and all other parts of the painting.

SPACE – 3-D space created by the tree in the foreground, the village in the middle ground, and the mountains and sky in the background.

how do the elements of art work with the principles of design in the composition?

what are the 3 most important principles of design you see?

analyze

Starry Night, 1889, oil on canvas

Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890)



analyze

PATTERN – The cool blue and green colors are repeated in lines that are small brushstrokes over the entire composition making up the houses, the sky, and the tree.

MOVEMENT - As you look up the dark tree and back in space to the repeated curvy lines that make up the sky and mountains your eye moves from left to right and around the entire composition. As the lines swirl around the painting they slow your eye in places and move your eye quickly over other areas.



EMPHASIS - The use of cool colors throughout except for the bright warm yellow moon and stars help emphasize the sky. Your eye is drawn from the tree in the foreground back in space to the upper right where the large crescent moon is emphasized.

What is the artist trying to communicate?

- 1. Is the piece formalism, emotionalism, or realism?*
- 2. what is the artist's intent or the meaning of the artwork? why?*
- 3. what is the feeling or mood of the artwork? why?*

support your opinion with evidence from the describe and analyze steps (in other words, with the elements and principles.)

interpret

Starry Night, 1889, oil on canvas

Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890)



interpret

1. 'Starry Night' is an emotionalism painting because of Van Gogh's exaggeration of color and expressive brushstrokes used to create visual movement and energy.
2. Van Gogh used small brushstrokes and bold colors to create an energetic or excited feeling. He is putting the energy he feels from the starry night by emphasizing the light with the contrast of warm and cool colors and creating visual movement with his lines that move the eye rapidly over the sky and town in the painting



3. The feeling is an excited one, almost as if something is about to happen to this town that is so still while the sky above it moves so rapidly with excitement. The contrast in colors between the darker town and brighter, more active colors of the sky also give a sense that something is about to happen but the town is not yet aware of it.

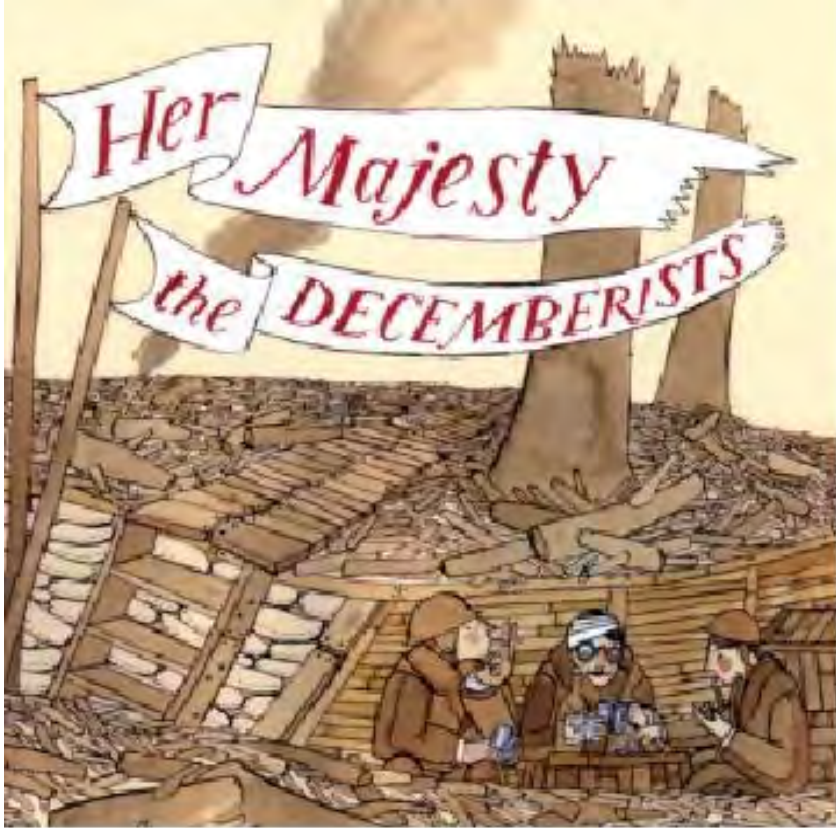
How does the artwork compare to others of its kind?

- 1. two similarities (elements or principles)**
- 2. two differences (elements or principles)**
- 3. compare and contrast your interpretation.**
- 4. what is your opinion of the art?**

support your opinion with evidence from all 3 previous sections.

judge

judge

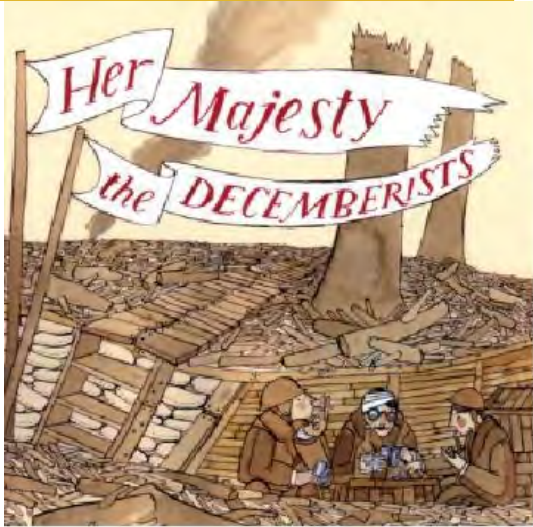


Diana Sudyka

1. 2 similarities
2. 2 differences
3. compare/contrast your interpretation of both
4. your opinion

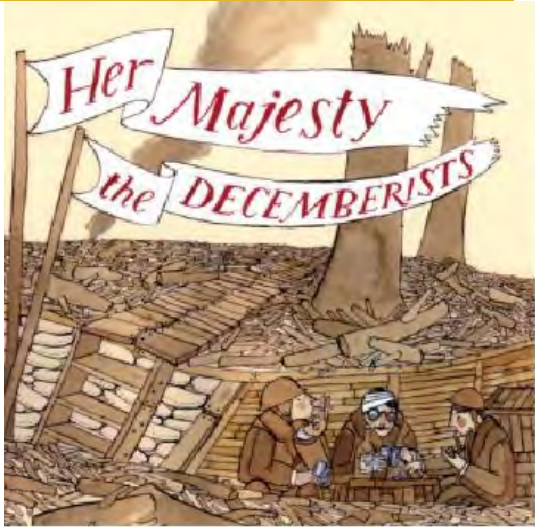


judge



1. Both artworks use **line** to direct the viewer's eye around the composition. Van Gogh uses small curved strokes of color to move your eye around the sky and across the village while Sudyka uses **line** to lead you diagonally up to the banners, then horizontally across the design, then down again to focus on the people in the lower right corner. Sudyka has placed **emphasis** on the banner, by making it the largest and brightest area, while Van Gogh uses **emphasis** on the moon by making it the brightest area. Finally, both artworks create a sense of depth or **space** by having larger objects and images in the foreground, and smaller images in the background.

judge

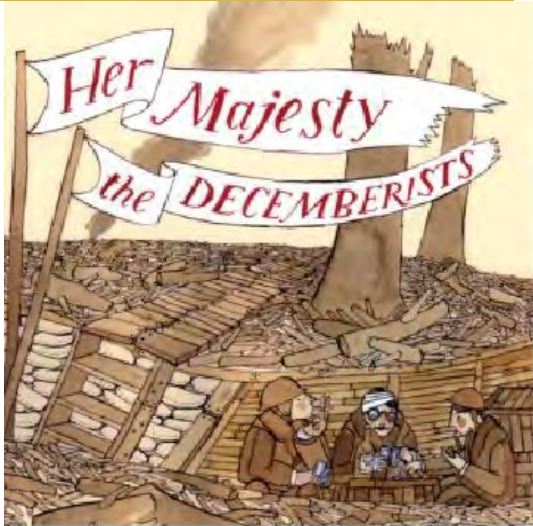


2. Both artworks, however, differ in their use of **color** and **texture**. Sudyka uses dull browns and other neutral colors for her design, while Starry Night exhibits a predominantly cooler color palette of blues and greens.

Other than the dark lines surrounding the objects depicted in Sudyka's piece, the overall image appears very smooth. Starry Night, however, has a sort of **textural** feel because of the linear choppy way Van Gogh applied his brush strokes.



judge



3. The exaggerated use of line around the edges of the images, as well as, the artists' unrealistic interpretation of color make both artworks expressive. Starry Night has an excited feel from the brushstrokes and colors used, while Sudyka's work seems more melancholy or dismal from the muted neutral colors used.

4. I think both are successful in how the artist's have used color and movement to express a feeling or idea and both balance their composition by evenly placing elements in the composition, directing your eye over the entire artwork.

