

African Art

The painting is made by an african artist. You can tell by the colours used in the painting and the style of clothes that are worn that it comes from an african background. The painting is quite abstract because of the shapes. The shapes have curved lines but the way the shapes are used are like 'block shapes', as if the shapes are making up the painting. The painting is more about the colours used. Each random shape has got tonal colour. The colours used are bright ranging from blue and red, mixed with dark tones. The painting doesn't depict a realistic image because it doesn't seem like a professional painting. It doesn't show any great detail and only shows more emphasis on the colour. The colours give the painting a warm atmosphere, it does use cold colours such as green and blue but they are mixed in with the warm colours such as orange and purple. The painting depicts a scene from a cartoon or something similar. It's the type of painting you would see in a child's book.

The painting is made from chalk pastels and chalk and charcoal, with the use of smudging and blending. The painting does give a general impression and it is clear as to what it is. The whole painting does seem smooth and is not textured in anyway. It is hard to see where some lines finish as they do blur into each other at times, making it look abit rough rather than clear edged.

The shapes used are of an average size but various sizes, but they are quite simple than organic. It consists either of rectangular or curved shapes. The shapes used in the painting are of the body outlines of the two people. It doesn't show any great detail. The outlines aren't hard edged either but smooth and slightly blurred. It doesn't give the impression that it is 3-D and doesn't use 3-D shapes but the shapes are just flat.

The tonal balance is a medium contrast and uses more dark tones than lighter tones. It uses tone through blending and shading the colours. On the actual figures it uses more darker shading and a few colour blendings. The background blends various numbers of colours together. The darker shadings on the figures doesn't give the painting seem gloomy as most paintings will when they have darker shades to it, or even dark as there is more colour blended into it. Still with the toning, it makes the picture look flat.

The main types of colours that are used are primary colours and the combined primary colours mixed with the black or white. It doesn't use any other mixed colours. There are cold colours such as green and blue but it still makes the painting look warm as it is mixed with either a warm colour. It uses bright colours but in general it doesn't seem as bright as you would expect it to be as the artist has used the colour in a subtle way. The way the artist has used the colour is started in one section of a shape and either smuged outwards into the rest of the shape, or blended in to another colour.

The main object of the painting, is the two figures and that is the main focus, however the colours used in the background doesn't really make the figures stand out even though it is in the centre of the painting. The composition of the two figures is an original pose, one that you would see in

any other figure painting of a man and a woman. However, in this case, the painting in general does not show much affection between the two people.

2. cubism painting

Tamara de Lempicka – Adam and Eve

The painting depicts two people, a man and a woman, which looks as if its sets in the renaissance time, but also gives an impression that it is influenced by cubism. It is realistic, because the bodies seem life-like and it shows the natural colours of a person. The painting's main focus is on the bodies and its tonal work. The artist could have used people to pose for her whilst she drew this. It is not set in a certain time of the day, but seems more of a dusk setting, with lighting coming from one side, which in this case is the left top corner.

The painting is hand-painted from oil paints but could be airbrushed over as the tonal is very smooth with no sign of brush strokes at all. There are hardly any details shown in the painting, the main detail is the detail of the tonal work. The style of the painting is very bold and clear as to what it is. You can easily see where the lines end. The shapes used are very large surfaced. The only block shapes are used in the background for the buildings, the main bodies are free-handed lines.

The tonal balance of the painting varies from a high and low contrast. The tonal balance of the painting is the part that stands out the most from the painting. However, the original of this painting's tonal work had been done in block colours, the colours of the figures' skin was not blended in, giving the cubism effect. The toning in this painting is done exceptionally well. There is a lot of dark tonal work done on the figures, however, it doesn't make the painting look depressing overall. The lighter tones make the painting balance out. There is some surfaces of the painting that catches out the light such as the woman's thighs and the man's back and legs, but is mainly the right side of the painting as that is where the light is coming from.

The colours used are its natural colours. The colours are very natural and not too overpowering but still manage to make an impact on the painting. As the majority of the figures take up the painting, the colour of the figures make the painting give a slight warm atmosphere rather than cold. The colours used in the background for the buildings, set of the colour of the figures, as it's quite dark and uses black and grey, it makes the figures stand out more.

3. Elaine Gignilliat who produced this painting, is one of the leading romance book cover artists. She has painted covers for over 350 romance books representing more than 150 authors including her latest work. This painting was used for Joyce Verrette's book 'A Rebel's Love'