

Analysis of a Painting by Famous Artists- Caillebotte, Gustave



This is a painting called *Scolles* by Gustave Caillebotte. His paintings are quite realistic, which indicate that the painting is surreal, though it is considered as impressionist. Caillebotte was originally an engineer but he also attended Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. There he met Edgar Degas, Claude Monet and Pierre Auguste Renoir, who are also famous artists. The four of them organized the first impressionist exhibition in 1874, also in Paris.

The contents of this painting include four rowers, one that only has the tip of the row shown and another which is barely visible. The foreground is obviously one of the rowers in his canoe. However, his yellow hat seems to be the dominant object in the painting, as the colour is the brightest as well as most vibrant compared to the other objects of the painting. The mid-ground basically consists of the river as well as the other rowers. The background is the trees beside the river and a type of shelter which is on the left side of the painting. The river could also be considered as a background as it stretches out into the back. The colour is mainly green and a tint of blue with some brown which is focused onto the canoes. The only yellows available in the painting are the yellow hats and the rows.

The composition of *Scolles* is not really noticeable. At first it seems to be quite vertical due to the river, but then the rows seem to make the painting more horizontal, leading the eyes to the side of the river, and possibly the rowers in the mid-ground. The ripples made by the canoes create diagonal lines within the river, though not significant, suggests it balances the painting's orientation as there is a great deal of horizontal and vertical lines. The trees are also vertical, ignoring the fact that it is a little slanted.

As for the process, the river might be the first thing to be drawn as it establishes the entire shape of the painting, as well as its simplicity of its shape. The rowers are mostly next to be drawn, then the background as last. The reason is probably because the background is the most complicated thing to paint, as it covers most of the painting. The water in the river is also difficult to paint as well, because Caillebotte wants to create a realistic painting and water isn't easy to capture onto a canvas.

The mood of this painting gives me a sense of peace, especially when I see rowers drifting smoothly across the river. The trees in the background don't seem to be deformed excessively, which indicates that there's no storm or big gusts of wind. The calmness of the water also shows the passiveness of the environment and atmosphere. I particularly like this painting because of its calmness and peaceful atmosphere it brings to me, though it sometimes misleads my eyes to somewhere not as interesting. I am always amazed by the realistic water the artist paints, for I know how difficult and intricate to draw liquid substances, which is why I like paintings of nature.