

Name: Nia Williams

Student number: 2204899

Course: Photography in the Arts – Ways Of Perceiving

Word count: 1,623

Lecturer: Estefani Bouza

Exhibition Essay

For my exhibition show I wanted to outline the importance of beauty within art. Beauty can be seen in many different aspects within art which is why I wanted to focus on the theme for my show. I think that it is an important theme to talk about now as beauty has changed drastically throughout the decades and standards of beauty have also changed for the better and some for the worse. I wanted to outline how artists present beauty within their work as it shows their views and thoughts on beauty. I have chosen artists such as Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres, Salvador Dali, Johannes Vermeer, Jacobus Hendrik Pierneef and Vincent van Gogh to research on this theme as after researching artists work I think that these artists presented beauty within their work all differently whilst also showing their views on beauty.

After researching multiple themes within art I came to the conclusion that Beauty would be the best theme to work with as I feel as though it fits best with my interests and themes I like to work in within my own photography. As a photographer who works mostly with portraits I feel as though beauty standards are set high within the industry. This is something I am hoping and am trying to change as I feel most of the time it sets unrealistic standards and shows false images online with images that have been highly edited therefore setting high standards within the industry. I feel as though the theme of beauty can be separated into different groups of art.

Beauty can be viewed in multiple ways depending on who the artist is and their view on beauty. I have selected a range of different artists for my show depending on which I thought fitted the theme of beauty best. All chosen artists present the theme of beauty in different ways depending on the published time of the art work and their views of beauty within art as times have changed opinions and views of beauty overtime. I have chosen art work in which are all different to each other I have also chosen multiple artworks from the same artist to compare to their other art works that also explore the theme of beauty to see how their presentation of beauty has changed overtime. There are also art works in which show beauty from different points of view than just a portrait of a person. Whilst researching different artists I had noticed that Vincent van Gogh had made various art works that all presented beauty but in different ways which I had found really interesting as nowadays beauty is usually seen as a physical appearance of a person however after doing research through different artists I had seen that beauty can be seen far beyond that. The first artist I have chosen for my imagined exhibition is Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres. He was a French Neoclassical painter famously known for painting in a romantic style of work considering himself a painter of history. He is also famously known for painting portraits which is another reason why I had chosen him as one of the artists for my imagined exhibition. I feel as though although beauty can be seen in multiple ways within art beauty is also mainly based around people and their appearances which is why I think it is important to include an artist who based their work around portraits. Another artist I have chosen for my show is Salvador Dali. He had based his work around illustrations and photography with his work being described as 'bizarre' he presents beauty in a different way to other artists. He uses poetry to create his art which I think is also very important as poetry can be seen as a beautiful form of art also. I have also chosen to focus on Johannes Vermeer for my imaginary exhibition as I feel

there are some very famous portraits in which they have created that are still famous decades later which I think it is really important to research what they had done differently to other artists that had made their work stand out and still be spoken about to this day. Famous magazines such as ELLE talk about beauty standards and the importance of self image in the twentieth century which is far from when any of these artists had published their work which I think is important to reflect on the different opinions overtime.



Maddame Moitessier - Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres (Google images)

The First artwork I have chosen is 'Madame Moitessier' by Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres. I had chosen this as my first artwork as I feel as though it looks like a standard portrait of a person in which wouldn't be much different nowadays. These types of painted portraits were famously published during the 18th century into the early 19th century. This art work was published in the year 1856 using oil painting. However, this painting captures the luxury lifestyle during this time meaning that not everyone would have looked this way, it captures luxury clothing and jewellery both of which were statement pieces of this time. The work captures the subject sitting posed for the painting. This is the second version of this painting with the first one being the subject standing. I feel as though a lot of time and effort went into creating these portrait paintings whereas now we have access to technology which allows to take an image or

create artwork faster. However, during the 18th century they had no option than to paint portraits which I feel is so important as they would also be dressed and posed for the photo which is what makes them so similar. I feel as though it captures the luxury lifestyle of people of this time without capturing the realistic lifestyle of most people of this time. Therefore we are unable to see the realistic lifestyle of someone who was to live the average lifestyle where their outfit and appearance would have been a lot different.



Princesse de Broglie – Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres (Google

Images)

Another art work I have chosen is 'Princesse de Broglie' by Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres. This is another art work in which captures the luxury lifestyle of the 1853. As this is also set in the 18th century the image set out is very similar to the first art work. However, this is seen as a much richer life style based off of the outfit and hair. It is drastically different to the beauty standards of nowadays as it is overall seen as more dramatic to the 20th century. It is still suprising how Ingres was able to create such a crisp and detailed image and maintain it over time. The beauty standards of the 18th century were mainly based off of the outfit that the subject of the image is wearing and the viewer is instantly drawn to the outfit rather than the face of the subject. However, in the 20th century all images are based off of the face of the subject but are also heavily edited and changed to fit the 'standards' of society nowadays. I feel as though art of the 18th century is much more beautiful to look at rather than images created during the 20th century as I feel as though they are more realistic.

Although they only capture the luxury lifestyle the self image is much more realistic.



Self Portrait with straw hat- Vincent Van Gogh (Google Images)

Going on into the later 18th century I have chosen 'Self portrait with straw hat' by Vincent van Gogh. I feel as though Van Gogh's art style is unique in comparison to other artists. Published in 1887 we can see how different art styles had been explored by artists overtime. Van Gogh explains how artists should explore with self portraits more to feel more comfortable and learn to pose for the images you are creating. (*Shotkit.com*) I feel as though the patterns added to the image really give a unique style to his work and don't let the viewer focus on the beauty standards. It is important that beauty standard issues are seen across all genders and not just women (www.elle.com *Tayne Tinsley*) I feel as though this is important as there are standards for looks across all genders although it is mainly focused upon women.



Girl With Pearl Earring – Johannes Vermeer

(Google images)

Vermeer created a portrait in which conveys a sense of timeless beauty (johannesvermeer.com). It gives the viewers an idealised image of a girl seen to be 'perfect'. To this day it is still surprising how popular the art work is and how views have not changed over time. Even so it is argued that there is no longer art like this to this day *(The Guardian- Retrieved 6 October 2015).*



The final image I am including in my imaginary exhibition is 'Sunflowers' by Vincent Van Gogh. After some research I had seen that beauty had been widely popularised throughout portraits of people when it can be seen in many different aspects. Van Gogh had published this painting in the year 1888, showing that beauty is more than a face or fashion. People often overlook the beauty of nature and the natural sources of the earth which is why I think it is important to base more artworks based off of more than people. The colours and frame of this painting present beauty in the best possible

way. The standards of beauty and physical looks have become far too important during the 20th century which is why I think it is important to capture more natural sources and make changes to the standards in society.

Bibliography:

Images- Google images

Bing Images

Sources – The Guardian – Retrieved 6 October 2015

Elle.com - Published (Tayne Tinsley) 2021



Floor Plan layout: Instagram.com