

Introduction to the History of Art
ARTH 1103
VISUAL ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

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Without performing any outside research, answer the following questions about the Prompt Object provided. Your answers need not be “right” – in many cases, there might not be a correct answer – but whatever you hypothesize in answering the questions below should be supported with “evidence” taken from careful examination of the Prompt Object or otherwise supported with a well-reasoned justification. This is a critical thinking exercise designed to make you look/read closely, not meant to test your ability to guess what the Prompt Object actually is.

1. Describe the Prompt Object in the greatest detail possible, using the Formal Elements terms that we have discussed in class and that are posted on Blackboard (discuss *style* as well as *content*). (c. 500 words)

- This type of artwork is most likely an oil painting. The colors in this painting are a very outstanding aspect of the painting. Most of the objects in this picture are laying on a surface, very messily but they are definitely at a higher surface than the floor, one object in particular seems to be in the motion of falling down as it is not quietly laying on the floor but it is leaning as if it's about to touch the floor but hasn't yet. From this painting I can tell that they're both educated or at least knowledgeable people who have interests in science and different forms of art and the maps, globes and music instruments is what gives me that impression as well. Even writing whether that be professional writing or a hobby like a journal etc . I see a lot of pens and notebooks all over and around the table. The material in this painting is the gold the man on the left is wearing. The line that's very thin and delicate is what I mentioned before about the object in the action of falling on the floor, the way the artist used lines is what made me distinguish this piece apart from all the other objects in the picture. The texture of the surface is shiny in some parts like on the man's clothes and other parts that seems to have more light than other parts of the painting. The space they're standing in seems to be a room and it's filled with this two story desk that contains ,probably things that belong to them. The painting is not

empty or hollow, the mass and volume in this painting are dense, the two men standing there taking up most of the painting with the clothes they have on which seem to be very heavy in weight and mass. In addition to all the objects in this painting and the curtains/ the backdrop in the painting seems to be dense with a velvety texture and pattern that usually holds a lot of weight. I believe the way the artist created depth and illusion in this painting is how he created shadows in order for us to be able to tell how close/ far something is, and how big or small an object/ a person is. He achieved that by also incorporating darker colors for the most part and especially focusing on objects and materials the artist wants it to stand out in any way for example choosing darker colors for the coats and velvet material gives them great weight and depth.

2. What might the Prompt Object be (specifically)? That is, what is its purpose? How was/is it used? Who created it? Who is it for? Why (specifically) do you think so? What evidence/visual details/inferences/comparisons did you use to arrive at this hypothesis? (c. 300 words)

- This painting speaks to me. I believe this piece of art was created for two wealthy brothers that come from an artistic background as an outcome of the instruments in the background of this painting. In my point of view, the purpose of this portrait is a painting of the reality of their lives captured for them to always be able to hold on to. After studying the history of some different countries, I believe the red carpet on top of the desk in the middle of this painting and the textured olive green curtain in the background are from Constantinople. Therefore, after my analysis of these two men could be Turkish, however the turban they are wearing on their head does not approve of that idea, as back during this phase they used to roll their turbans around their heads. This might be a painting of green or roman men as Greeks and Romans were always drawing faces, especially noses of men a certain way. The marble floor's details, as well as the velvet and fur coats they are wearing, also support my theory of them coming from a wealthy background. The world Maps and the books on the table lead me to believe that they are educated. The man on the right side of the portrait could be a priest, a bishop or a deacon during the Roman empire in the medieval era. His clothing underneath the gown and his simple hat are a mix of simplicity and elegance in

a sophisticated way that also lead to my conclusion of him being a worshipper of some sort. However the man on the left could be a duke or a ruler of a place. His velvet coat with fur gives me the impression of an important man and the detailed gold jewelry he is wearing backs up that perspective as well.

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clothes and other parts that seems to have more light than other parts of the painting. The space they're standing in seems to be a room and it's filled with this two story desk that contains probably things belong to me. The painting is not empty or hollow, the mass volume in this painting are dense the two men standing there taking up most of the painting with the clothes they have on which seem to be very heavy in weight and mass. In addition to all the objects in this painting and the curtains/ the backdrop in the painting seems to be dense with a velvety texture and pattern that usually holds a lot of weight. I believe the way artist created depth and illusion in this painting is how he created shadows in order for us to be able to tell how close/ far something is, and how big or small an object/ a person is. He achieved that by also incorporating darker colors for the most part and especially focusing on objects and materials the artist wants it to stand out in any way for example choosing darker colors for the coats and velvet material gives them great weight and depth