John Bucher

Art 105

Peter Barr & Tim Van Beke

7 December 2015

Historic Compositions Reinterpreted

 The theme I worked with in this piece was “Secrets”, and I worked on the general composition of Gustave Caillebotte’s *Paris Street; Rainy Day* while retaining the umbrellas. The three creative strategies I used were coded communication, line expression with the adjective of uneasiness/disorientation, and silhouettes of shapes of human figures relating to secrets in a more specific way (as will be thoroughly explained later). Color choice also plays a major role in this particular reinterpretation, although it isn’t one of the creative strategies (as it is a full palette, not a particular scheme), it is something I will explain further due to its relation as a symbols in understanding the piece. Overall, the idea of this painting is of cheating in relationships. It is a personal piece, but I didn’t want the emotional translation to outweigh the requirements and aesthetic appeal, so I made it all heavily abstracted.

 I used Morse electric telegram messaging for the coded communication throughout the piece. It is seen on the two sides of the building in the distance as well as in red paint on the yellow silhouetted figures and the rectangle between them. The message is “Lie”, and it is put in places where they stand as symbols.

 Expressive line was used to show disorientation or uneasiness. The wavy lines all throughout the piece is to represent this. The dark blue lines and red lines in the sky, as well as the wavy lines that make up the red dot figure and the one she is holding on to.

 Silhouetted shapes were used as well, painted yellow and with the coded messaging on them in red paint. These shapes are expressive human figures. The yellow and red that make them up tie into the overall color symbolism. The silhouettes of these individuals were done purposely, so they aren’t anything specific as they are only silhouettes. This is made so that they can be interpreted as different individuals.

 Color plays a major role in this piece. The dark colors, specifically the dark blue which makes up the majority of the dark colors, represents secrecy, blindness, and covering up. We see this all throughout the piece, most notably as the coat of the individual with the green head and of the red individual who has dark blue across where his eyes would be. This is to represent blindness. The warm colors, specifically the yellow to red range, represent association with the figure whose head is a red dot.

 Rhythm, which then influenced movement, was also used in this piece. The spacing between the expressive lines is in such a way that it guides the eye along throughout the piece in a rhythmic format. Movement is further conveyed by the spacing between figure in general and directional lines and shape.

 Contrast and unity also plays a big role. The red dots especially stand out, but red is then distributed throughout the piece so not all attention is focused on these vivid reds. Complexity is uniform throughout the piece, but with breaks in the complexity with flat and solid shapes as well as colors.

 I brought umbrellas over from the original painting into this piece as they could be viewed as a sort of cover, further reinforcing hiding/secrecy. This is to represent that the actions committed, in relation to the red dot, by all of the individuals with umbrellas in this painting, are wished to be covered up and kept secret.

 This was an overall very enjoyable piece to progress through. It is extremely symbolic and depicts a lot of myself, but I made sure to not let this get in the way of its general appeal aesthetically and mechanically.