Museum Visit Report on Baroque Cubist and Modern Art

Posted on October 11, 2022

The Museum Experience and the Study of Contemporary Art

A trip to any type of historical place is a great recreational activity for anyone. We can come across different types of cultures of different eras. The museum is the only place where we can come across various types of cultures and eras at once. In the modern world, we should plan such recreational activities to enlighten ourselves with the history of different cultures. Art museums play a significant role in our academic life. This report revolves around the explicatory details of our visit to the "Sarasota Museum of Arts".

The "Sarasota Museum of Art" is considered the first museum in the region of Sarasota dedicated to contemporary arts. The vision of this art museum is dedicated to projecting new ideas for education, exposure, and experimentation. Viewing images online or in textbooks is extremely different from viewing artistic works in person. When I first saw a picture in the exhibition gallery, I got deeply involved in the intricate details of the artwork. Every minute detail was conveying its meaning. I could never analyze these artistic creations in a textbook or a website in the way I analyzed them in the museum. The atmosphere matters a lot to boost the cognitive abilities of students. We can never get the feeling of the in-person visits by just sitting in the classrooms. By visiting a museum, we learn to critically analyze and appreciate different artworks of different eras.

The "Sarasota Museum of Arts" is based on contemporary arts and is working in collaboration with the "Ringling College Museum Campus". When we entered the museum, I was left breathless and astounded by the grandeur of this museum. I had never visited this museum before, which made every moment exceptional for me. This museum is constructed on 15,000 square feet. It comprises an exhibition gallery space, a shop, a Bistro, a sculpture courtyard, and an auditorium. The auditorium is used for educational events and seminars. The building is full of different contemporary artworks. We all first visited the exhibition gallery. The exhibition gallery area comprises different artistic works belonging to different eras. (*Home – Sarasota Art Museum*)

Cubism, Baroque Art, and Selected Museum Works

The first artistic creation which truly mesmerized me in the whole exhibition gallery space is "The Young Ladies of Avignon or The Brother of Avignon (*Les Demoiselles d'Avignon)*". This is a large oil

painting created by the famous artist Pablo Picasso. This artistic masterpiece reflects the cubism painting style. This painting instigated the Cubism art movement. Picasso created this oil painting in 1907 in the Rose period. This was the time when Picasso settled himself in Paris. The “Rose Period” came after the “Blue Period”. The major themes of the Blue Period were anxiety and poverty. However, in the Rose period, Picasso’s paintings were largely based on sensuality and sexuality. The core themes of the Rose period are opposite to the Baroque era of artistic creations. The Baroque era started in the early 17th century and finished in the mid-18th century. Baroque art focused on exaggeration, drama, and exuberance. The Baroque paintings focus on religious themes such as Catholicism. Churches and worship were the primary themes of Baroque paintings.

On the other hand, “The Young Ladies of Avignon” reflects the major themes of the Rose period. The painting style of the respective painting resembles Cubism painting because of its nude picture and fragmented figures. This painting has an immense influence on modern art and its forms. The naked women are distinctly painted with sharp geometric corners. Picasso uses an abandoned perspective. Some parts of the paintings are heavily painted. For instance, the woman pulling the curtains is painted with intense colours to show that the woman is drawing the curtains for privacy. The group of women reflects the idea that they belong to a brothel. The title of the painting also sheds light upon the meaning of the painting. This painting is created in a two-dimensional style. When I looked closely at this painting, I realized that the rough and sharp brush strokes reflected Picasso’s aggression and outrage. This in-depth analysis and interpretation could never have come from me if I had viewed this painting in the textbook or online. Therefore, I was amazed at my interpretations and critical skills unveiled during the museum visit.

The second painting which got my attention is “Fides Catholica (The Triumph of the Catholic Faith)”. This artwork came into existence during the 17th century, designed by Paul Rubens. The medium of this painting is wool and silk. The respective painting belongs to the Baroque era. When I first looked at the painting, I had formed the opinion that it must belong to the Baroque era. The figures in this painting are used as personifications of faith, science, philosophy, and nature. The overall theme of this painting is the power of faith, which stands on the chariot with victory. However, all the other personified figures are bowing their heads and standing on the land.

Religious Imagery and Personal Reflection on the Exhibition

The third painting which grabbed my attention is “Madonna and Child with Saints Sebastian and Roche”. This artistic painting was painted in 1522 by Berardino Luini. It is an oil-on-panel painting. This painting provides us with the cruel circumstances of the black plague and its victims. It reflects upon the famous story of St. Roche and the dog, who saved his life after contracting the disease. Luini is known as a Renaissance painter. Therefore, this painting is from the Renaissance era.

Overall, I truly enjoyed my experience at this jaw-dropping museum. The atmosphere of the museum

is so refreshing and welcoming that it propels its visitors to admire the creativity of all the artistic works. The major reason for my enjoyment of this museum is because it was my first visit here. Hopefully, I will be visiting this museum soon because I want to explore more about artistic paintings and sculptures. The time for our trip to this museum was very short. The only thing that may have improved my trip would have been to increase the duration of the trip. This is probably the reason that I will soon be visiting it again to explore all the areas of the museum that were left unexplored on this trip. Our critical and observational skills are truly enhanced after taking a recreational trip like this. Furthermore, this trip will be a huge incentive for me during my academic course. I highly recommend that everyone visit this museum to expose themselves to contemporary art, sculptures, and historical paintings.

Works Cited

Anatomy of a Masterpiece – The New York Times. https://www.nytimes.com/1995/04/30/books/anatomy-of-a-masterpiece.html. Accessed 4 Aug. 2021.

Chave, Anna C. "New encounters with Les Demoiselles d'Avignon: Gender, race, and the origins of cubism." *The Art Bulletin* 76.4 (1994): 596-611.

Home – Sarasota Art Museum. https://www.sarasotaartmuseum.org/. Accessed 4 Aug. 2021.