

My Parents

David Hockney



Why did you select it?

You can write here what made you analyze this particular image (topic, technique, theme, mood, genre, anything else?) What makes it stand out?

- I really like the use of color and the way the two people are placed in the painting
- Even though at first look it might seem a bit simple there is a lot of emotion/meaning, and smaller details to find
- I really like this painting I have a postcard of it on my wall
- I think it has a lonely feel to it, the mother seems lonely- she's sat far apart from both the father (who is distracted) and the cabinet, neither of them look very happy
- It's very calming to look at

Theme and Tone

What did it make you feel? / What was the main emotion of this piece?

- Even though colours are bright/cheerful the piece has an overall feeling of sadness – lots of cool colours/blues, even the brown suit has blue tones within it
- The way they're both sat- his mum looks sad, dad is distracted
- Purposely chosen to not include himself in the painting (mirror reflection)- this is a painting about his parent's relationship to each other not him
- It feels very set up, everything in the painting is placed there purposefully and the people have been posed, it's not a candid snapshot of their lives everything has been considered carefully
- Chardin book- reference to Jean-Baptiste-Simeon Chardin a French painter who is considered a 'master of still life', painted a lot of domestic activities

Technique

What was the technique? Was the technique suitable with the content? How colors, lighting contributed to the tone? How was the sitter framed?

- Oil paint on canvas
- Oil paint is a slow process so they would have had to pose for a long time for this painting
- The way the parents are arranged could be indicative of Hockney's relationship with them- the mother sits facing him, posed quite formally with hands on lap and sat up straight whereas the father is slouching intent on the book in his lap, facing away from the painter
- There are shadows but they're not strong and there isn't an obvious light source, the painting has quite a flat feeling to it, the father's suit is the most detailed part of the whole painting, the tulips and cabinet look quite 2 dimensional
- It doesn't feel natural- the chairs don't look comfortable, the room set up doesn't look like an actual room but there is something soft about the style of painting and the colour choices
- Hockney paints tulips into paintings to represent himself

Last thoughts

Would you recommend it to someone? Was it interesting?
Thought provoking? Is it relatable? What could perhaps be done differently?

- I would recommend it to someone, I think Hockney sometimes gets a bad rep because he is so famous and sometimes that seems to make people like fine artists less and his more recent work (in my opinion) was a lot worse but I think his early stuff like pre 2000s is really beautiful and crazy
- It's thought provoking, I think when painting a relationship as important as your own parents it would be difficult not to be thought provoking as the way they're painted says a lot about them
- Its relatable because of the loneliness of the mother, everyone can relate to feeling lonely, also the distance of the father