

Composition: Responding to a brief

Artists sometimes arrange groups of figures in paintings and sculptures to create dramatic compositions. Examples include David's 'Oath of the Horatii', Picasso's 'Guernica', Rodin's 'the Burgher of Calais' and the installations of Juan Munoz.

Explore appropriate sources and develop your own dramatic compositions.

Things to consider.

'A picture is worth a thousand words' is a famous quote. It refers to pictures being a snapshot of a moment in time where you can establish a story or a narrative. You can work out what's happened by the images and probably speculate what could happen next. Could you set up compositions that consider a story line or a narrative?

In some famous paintings and sculptures the characters are from previous times, could the characters and the paintings be reinvented and reproduced in the modern age. What could be substituted instead of swords in David's work?

Does your interpretation of compositions relate solely to group compositions or could the artwork be of some singular paintings that relate to each other. If so what could the theme be?

Comic book hero's and fantasy characters often have specific grouping to showcase their powers or the character's personality. Could you study comic book characters within compositions?

Things to do:

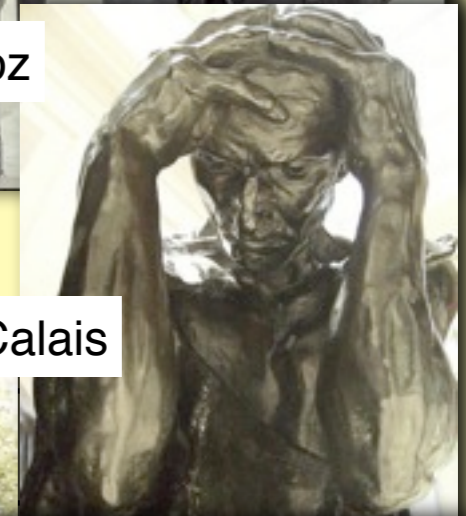
Make a bubble chart of your ideas about Compositions especially relating to art pieces.

Collect 3 images from each artist mentioned above and stick them into your sketchbook making annotations regarding mood, methods, techniques narrative, and form.

Collect 4 images of 'Compositions' to make studies from. This can be from Google or taken from real life. One of these images will be used as your first technical drawing or painting study.



Juan Munoz



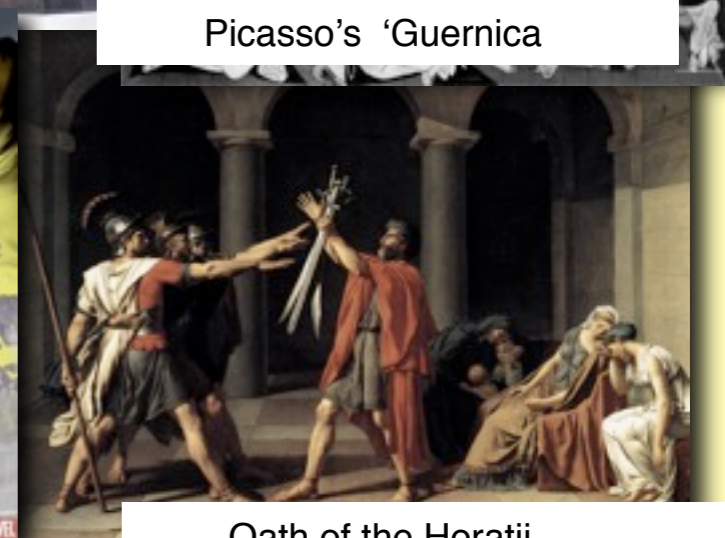
Burgher of Calais



Picasso's 'Guernica



Comic book compositions



Oath of the Horatii