

Waiting

Edgar Degas. Pastel on Paper. 1880. 19x24 inches.

As well as being an amazing and influential painter Edgar Degas is also a visionary artist of sculpture. He has sculpted many dancers and is well known for that.

Out of the six purposes art can serve I think this piece would be considered art for visual delight. Not only is the painting pleasing to the eye, but the conflict between the two figures is so relatable, which gives the audience more interest in the piece. The content of this piece is so relatable to any female viewer or any dancer alike because it is so effective in portraying the tension in the moment

I think Degas deliberately had the light source represented from the left of the painting where the dancer is. The dancer seems to have more of a glow, and next to the woman in black there are shadows on the floor. This adds even more contrast to the



This painting was done during the impressionist period. Impressionist attempted to paint, "what the eyes see, rather than what the mind knows."

The two women are quite a contrast to each other because the ballerina is in very light colors and the other woman is dressed in all very stale black. The way the woman in black is sitting, her posture, the positioning of her umbrella and her hat covering her eyes makes it look as if she is mourning. You would expect to see this woman painted in a funeral setting, not on a bench next to a ballerina. When I first observed the painting I thought it was a mother sitting with her daughter after a dance performance of some sort. The amount of space left on the bench toward the right side of the painting shows the two sitting somewhat close to each other. This insists that they have a close and comfortable relationship. They both have interest invested in the conflict that has arisen amongst them and they both seem to be a bit distraught. I thought that maybe the dancer had either a bad show or acquired an injury during the performance. I had this reaction to the painting because the dancer is holding her left ankle and she is hunched over as if she suffering in physical pain. This piece is very interesting to me because right away I noticed that the painting emoted a feeling of stress and tension, both from the dancer and the woman dressed in all black. Not only are the color schemes of the woman contrasting, but also their posture. The dancer seems to be very rounded out and fatigued, while the woman in black is sitting very stiff and rigidly. Ballerina's represent grace, elegance and beauty, so by painting a dancer in such a situation Degas is putting the ballerina into human perspective. The ballerina is no longer angelic, but human, and struggling.