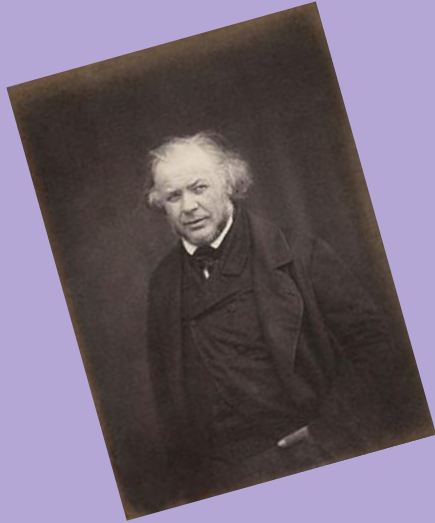


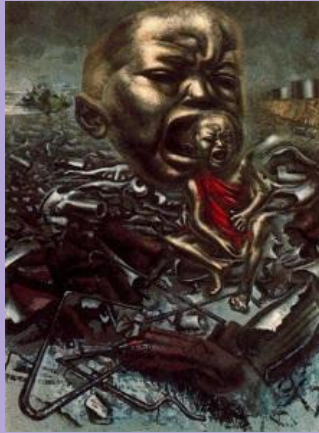
Comparative Study

By: Michelle Flores



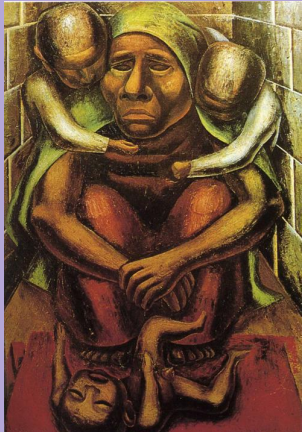
In this comparative study, I will be analyzing three works of the Mexican painter, David Alfaro Siqueiros including artworks from the French artist, Honoré Daumier. With each of the artwork from Siqueiros and Daumier, I will be examining the formal qualities of each piece as well as the cultural context of each piece. I also will be comparing/contrasting the ways in which they described and depicted their society through their art.

Evaluation of Cultural Significance of David Alfaro Siqueiros



*“Echo of a Scream”
by David Alfaro
Siqueiros*

Social Realism was significant throughout the years of 1930 and for the most part was a political movement during a time of global economic depression, while also bringing light to racial conflicts and flourished the rise of fascists regimes after the Mexican and Russian revolutions. David Alfaro Siqueiros was an upcoming artists during the late 1940’s and was one of the artists that was very prominent during the Mexican revolution. His art was focused on the idea of his marxist ideology and was entirely invested into this.



*“Proletarian
Mother” by David
Alfaro Siqueiros*

Many of his artworks honed into the idea of explaining told the story of America’s forceful relationship with Latin America. His commitment to education and his belief that public art could inform and inspire the masses to demand revolution served as a model of activism for subsequent artists with political or social agendas. He firmly believed that technology was a means to a better world and he sought to combine traditions of painting with modern political activism.

Analysis of Formal Qualities of David Alfaro Siqueiros

Dark, opaque colors are used to bring the attention of viewer's eyes to the center of each of his artworks as well as mainly focusing on the human form. Social Realism included many different styles of art between artists, sculptors and paintings however all were committed to creating art that was realistic and on the human condition and the human figure.



*“Cain the
United
States” David
Alfaro
Siqueiros*



*“The Torment of
Cuauhtemoc” David
Alfaro Siqueiros*

Interpretation of Function and Purpose

Annotation of “The Child Mother” (1936) by David Alfaro Siqueiros

Siqueiros, with most of his art, mainly used dull and monochromatic colors to show the strong emotions of each piece. Throughout a variety of his art, a **contrast** can be seen with the figures of the artwork, for example, in “The Child Mother” it can be seen that there is a difference in the colors used for the two main figures in the piece. This creates an **emphasis** on the piece and allows for the viewer to see that this is the focal point in the painting. The bright colors used for the two figures, draws the eyes to them. The very dull, and dark colors within the background seems to make the painting seem as though a feeling of intensity and displays the pain of the two main figures. The colors of the background also create movement within the piece due to the technique Siqueiros used.

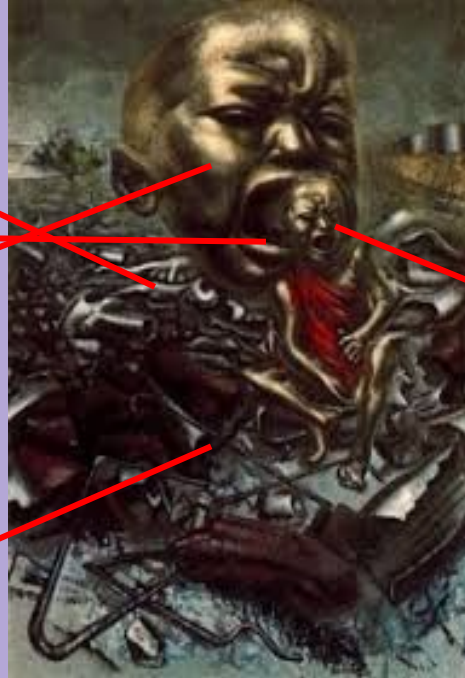


During this time, the Mexican painter/muralist was very politically active and wanted his art to display the reality of the government and society. A successful painter of monumental, political mural frescos, Siqueiros received public commissions in Mexico and executed mural projects in Los Angeles, New York, and South America during the 1930s. During this time

Interpretation of Function and Purpose:

Annotation of “**Echo of a Scream**” (1937) by David Alfaro Siqueiros

Siqueiros has a tendency to incorporate very **dull and not at all vibrant colors** in his artwork. This is clearly seen in “**Echo of a Scream**”, this color scheme allows for Siqueiros artwork to have more **definition and balance** between the shapes/figures of the piece. In the center of the piece, there is a great **contrast** between the colors. Within the face of the crying figure in the middle of the piece, there are a variety of bold **highlights** and a great range of **value**. The use of this technique changes the demeanor of the face. Which gives the piece a sense of sadness and melancholy. The simple background allows for the shapes/figures in the foreground to become more enhanced and instills a sense that something impactful and important is occurring. Making the background a dark grey, almost black colors, helps contrast the the copper and red tones of the two figures in the center.



“**Echo of a Scream**” shows the chaos, social revolution and fascists ideals during 1930s, which for Siqueiros was an impactful period of his lifetime. During this time in which he painted this, he was played a huge part of the Mexican Civil War. Understanding that, this specific painting depicts the despair, cause/effect, destruction and disasters of war. The child’s crying face displays the emotions of the many who were greatly affected by the disasters of war due to the instability of his home and country.

Evaluation of Cultural Significance of Honore Daumier

"The Third-class Carriage" By Honore Daumier



"Un Plaidier peu satisfait"
By Honore Daumier

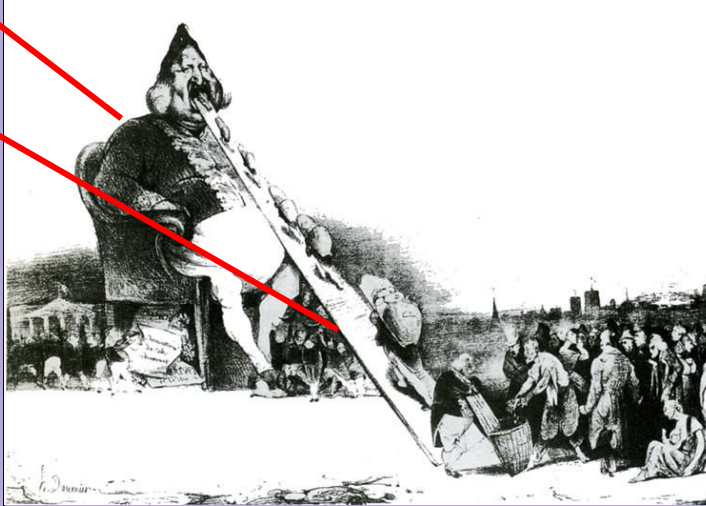
During his time period, many pieces made by him brought the attention of the public/government, but for the most part, negatively. His witty artwork (mainly caricatures) made him one of the most widely known social and political commentators of his time. His artwork was very diverse in the way he he produced not only the lithographs for which he is famous for but also produced drawings, oil and watercolor paintings, and sculpture. He lived in Paris during the 1800s, which during this time political and social unrest poured through the streets of the city. However, due to this political/social unrest, two revolutions occurred, as well as regime changes being done frequently, a war and a siege. With that, many of his artworks tackled the complex social, political and economic consequences of the pandemonium.

Daumier's painting style echoes that of Francisco Goya, Eugène Delacroix, and Théodore Géricault with its loose, expressive brushwork. Eschewing the controlled and polished surfaces of Neoclassical painting, he and other Romantic artists imbued their work with emotion - in many cases, high drama. Unlike most Romantic painters, however, his work is devoid of sentimentality but neither did he convey the kind of emotional distance of Realistslike Courbet. Thus, recent day critics and art historians tend to regard his painting style as a sort of precursor to Expressionism

Interpretation of Function and Purpose:

Annotation of 'Gargantua' (1831) by Honore Daumier

Throughout many of his artworks, especially his printmaking pieces, he included very harsh and **bold lines** to create an **emphasis** on the images displayed within the piece. In this particular piece, the very bright, transparent allows for the viewer's eye to be guided to the main figure in the center of the piece. The black **lines** made within the print vary from contoured, thin **lines** to very thick, bold **lines** which create of sense of depth since the negative space included in the background also adds a sense of a **contrast**.



"Gargantua" By Honore Daumier

In this controversial lithograph, which was to be published in Charles Philipon's newspaper *La Caricature* on December 16, 1831, Daumier depicted the corpulent monarch Louis-Philippe seated on his own throne, swallowing/ingesting each bag of coins being pushed up a ramp by tiny laborers, the coins in which have been taken away from the third-class of France by his ministers. On the lower right, a crowd of his poverty-stricken subjects stand waiting miserably to give the king what little money they have on them. Milling around the throne are Louis-Philippe's favorites, also are incredibly fat; they are collecting commissions, decorations, and so forth that are the result of the compulsory offerings of the poor.

Analysis of Formal Qualities of Honore Daumier

Dark, contrasting colors are used by Daumier to draw the attention of the viewer to the focal point of the piece. As much of his work was directed towards depicting the society in which he lived in (famine, war, and unrest seen throughout the people), he illustrated his thoughts on what the current reigning monarch (during this time) was doing for their people. In the very realistic and artistic way he drew, painted and sculpted, he made sure to include many **colors, lines, shapes** to help emphasize the movement captured in the artwork.

*“Rue
Transnonain”
By Honore
Daumier*



*“The Laundress”
By Honore Daumier*

- He is only widely known for his printmaking although he was very diverse in what mediums he used.
- Daumier’s way of mastering lithography provides this work with its gut-wrenching impact.
- In very way, his pieces are **balanced** and detailed with **texture and color**, it displayed how he wanted show the truth and display his honesty.

Interpretation of Function and Purpose:

Annotation of “The Hypochondriac” By Honore Daumier

Dark **colors** are used to describe the intensity of the event happening within the piece. Throughout this artwork there is a repetition of **contrasting hues** that give more focus towards the two figures placed in the center of the piece. The very pale white of the women’s clothing brings a **balance** to the the very contoured/ dull **hues** of the man alongside her. Seeing that Daumier made the clothing of the woman brighter than that of the man’s, it is easier to see the **values** of the clothing, allowing for texture to be seen,.



“The Hypochondriac” (*Le malade imaginaire*) By Honore Daumier
Thurs. 9, 2019

The meaning behind the title connects to the play of “The Imaginary Invalid” which was written by Molière. It describes the study of a hypochondriac, or a patient obsessed with being ill, and it contains a brilliant social and political commentary on Paris in the 1670s. It can be inferred that Daumier wanted to depict this play in one of his artworks since in many of his own artworks he made commentary on his own monarchy of that time through sarcasm and realistically painting.

Understanding that, it can be seen that on the far left corner of the painting, there are a collection of bright **colors** which can be taken as a spotlight. This “spotlight” allows for the eye of the viewer to move along the figure on the right of painting.

Interpretation of Function and Purpose:

Annotation of "The Burden (The Laundress)" By Honore Daumier

The dark color palette used within the background **contrasts** the light **colors** used within the clothing of the figure in the center which gives a sense of depth. Going further into the **colors** Daumier used for this piece, using the combination of both light and dark **hues** helps the piece obtain a sense of negative **space** in the background while also giving it a more positive **space**. The **hues** are also heavily saturated to bring more focus to the figures in the foreground.

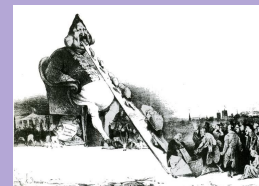
This certain piece almost appears to evoke a sense of despair and sadness. Daumier, known as a master of contrasting dark and light in extreme ways and creating dramatic scenes in his artwork, sets the two figures down a dark and deserted street. Coming from the left of piece, a light source is clearly seen. This light can be interpreted as a way Daumier tried to illuminate the burden of the woman and her child. It may be a light of good intentions and of being humble. The shadow casted upon the child may as well mean that their has yet to be decided.



The Burden (The Laundress) by Honore Daumier
9, May 2019

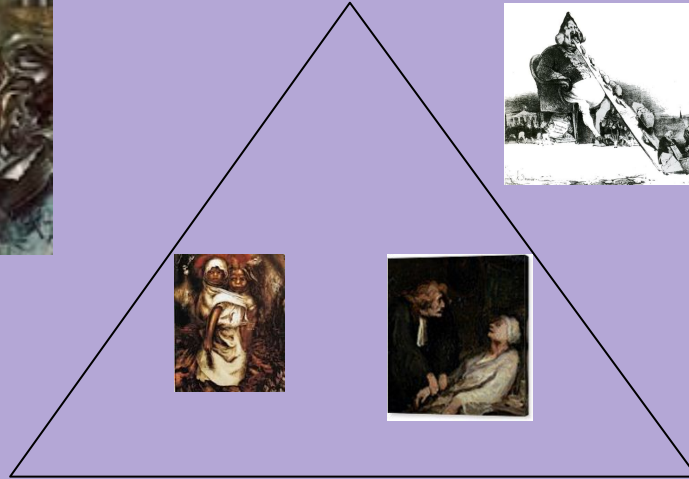
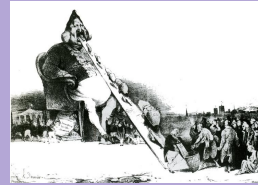
In this piece, the laundress or washerwoman appears to be a overwhelmed and burdened worker woman. In many of his pieces his laundress or washerwoman symbolizes the poor, overburdened working woman and she is accompanied by the child she struggles to support. Bent under the weight of the heavy bag of laundry she is hauling and against the strong wind opposing her progress, the woman's face reflects determination rather than despair. Empty-handed but equally somewhat thwarted, the child echoes its mother's determination. Of course, the burden of the laundry and the strength of the wind are symbolic of the "greater forces" against which this woman and her child are fighting: poverty, a corrupt government, civic strife, and cyclical revolutions.

Comparing Siqueiros-Daumier Art styles



David Alfaro Siqueiros	Both	Honore Daumier
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Artwork emphasized the human form, distorted figures 	<p>Extreme use of dark hues in the background to bring attention to the foreground</p>	<p>-Painted in a more realistic manner allowing for more detail to be seen throughout the piece</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very busy backgrounds to draw the viewer's eye to move all over the piece, bring attention to both the background/foreground 	<p>Both had a form of using colors to add dimension to the piece and evoke a meaning deeper beyond the truth</p>	<p>Uses negative space in the background to guide audience to the symbols and events in the foreground.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Artworks significantly straightfoward 	<p>Shares a commonality between the way shading is created through dark hues</p>	

Comparing *Meaning* Between Artists



David Alfaro Siqueiros

- Artwork: big and bold, were often infused with causes that supported his leftist politics
-

Both

- Use multiple **colors** as well as black, and white to convey the difference of their societies during that time

Honore Daumier

-

Comparing Artists use of *Color*

Both

- The use of dark **colors** incorporated within each of the artists artworks give the topic within the piece a more serious mood, and and creates a more complex look to them
- **Hues** within these artworks provide a sense of realistic topics
- Limited color palettes



David Alfaro Siqueiros

- Uses color to provide artwork with
- Artwork is distinguished by great dynamism and compositional movement, monumental size and vigour, sculptural treatment of forms, and a limited color palettes



Honore Daumier

- The color used within artwork emphasizes the dramatic scenes

Comparing the use of *Value* Between Siqueiros and Daumier

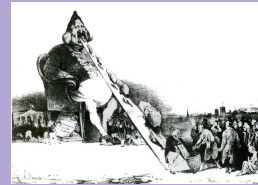
David Alfaro Siqueiros

- Mainly preferred to use dramatic effects of **light** and shadow.
- a variety of bold **highlights** and a great range of **value** are used



Honore Daumier

- There are a collection of bright **colors** in many of his artworks which can be taken as a spotlight. This “spotlight” allows for the eye of the viewer to move along the piece
- Takes advantage of having a very dark background to allow the foreground to pop out more.



Both

- Great contrast between light and dark allows for both artists to create texture within the piece
- The use of this technique changes the demeanor of the piece and allows for it to be seen as more dramatic.

Comparing the use of *Line* Between Siqueiros and Daumier

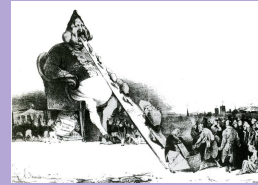
David Alfaro Siqueiros

- **Line** is present within within pieces to allow **form**
- he included very harsh and **bold lines** to create an **emphasis** on the image



Honore Daumier

- The black **lines** made within this artworks vary from contoured, thin **lines** to very thick, bold **lines** which create of sense of depth
- since the negative space in the background also adds a sense of a **contrast**.
- he included very harsh and **bold lines** to create an **emphasis** on the images



Both

- Include varying types of lines to create flow and movement throughout pieces

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