

Comparative Study

000315-0138

Leonid Afremov, Kevin Carter

City By The Lake, The Vulture and the Little Girl,
Famine in Sudan

Leonid Afremov Example



This oil painting titled “Rains Rustle III” shows a wonderful use of balance and the rule of thirds. While nothing is centered, the balance of the tree, bench, path, and couple demonstrate the rule of thirds. Furthermore, the contrast between the reds, oranges, yellows, and the blues and greens presents the audience with a feeling of comfort and warmth. The reflections made on the path using highlights gives the impression of water, demonstrating the motif of newness and renewal. Taken into account with the couple under the umbrella, the theme of the piece could be classified as a new love, or a new beginning for love.

Leonid Afremov

Background



Impressionist Lovers -1955

- Russian–Israeli modern impressionistic artist
- Works mainly with a palette knife and oils, but began with acrylics and watercolor
- Born 12 July 1955 in Vitebsk, Belarus
- Faced a lot of discrimination due to his Jewish heritage in Russia
- Moved to Israel, but still faced discrimination due to Russian roots
- Eventually moved to United States where he found success selling his paintings on Ebay rather than in galleries as he previously had
- He retired early to Cancun, and his sons manage his business
- He always wanted to be a painter, but fame was not his intention, he wanted to share his memories and parts of his soul with the world



Leonid Afremov

Art Content



- Leonid Afremov keeps his works politically neutral, and would rather express emotions than messages or stories.
- Afremov's work usually express positive emotions due to his use of bright colors to make the audience feel bright as well
- He claims that his art is a piece of his soul, and contains his own memories and past experiences

“Two Little Sisters”

Leonid Afremov Art Methods



“Stevie Ray Vaughan”

1. **Materials:**
 - a. Began his style with acrylics and watercolor
 - b. Began using oil and a palette knife for his paintings
2. **Style:**
 - a. When he transferred to oil paint and the palette knife, he gained his own distinct style
 - b. Studied the works of Chagall, Picasso, Dali, and Modigliani
 - c. These artist helped define his colourful style.
 - d. Used rule of thirds to help accent his pieces in an artistic balance
3. **Motifs:**
 - a. Afremov manages to convey many messages and motifs through his work.
 - b. The presence of rain represents the motif of renewal, and the contrast of light and dark colors shows comfort



Kevin Carter

“Struggling Girl” is a famous piece of photography by Kevin Carter.

Thematically, this piece encompasses the rule of thirds with the vulture in the background, and the little boy in the foreground. Carter used the boy as the focal point by placing her off center, to drive the attention of the audience to understand what the situation is. He does so to draw an emotional response to his piece with the societal message of child starvation in Sudan.

Background on Kevin Carter



Kevin Carter was born on September 13, 1960 and died July 27, 1994.

He won a Pulitzer Prize in 1994 for his photograph of “The Vulture and the Child”, and shortly after winning, he committed suicide.

Prior to becoming a photographer, he was a soldier, and witnessed the racism of South Africa that, as a middle class, white male, he was not privy to. Thus, in an effort to get the world to see what he saw, he became a photographer to document it. After photographing his famous piece, the guilt of not being able to intervene led him to a severe depression and he committed suicide.

His family includes his parents, two sisters, and a daughter.

Art Content



As a freelance photographer, Carter's pieces each contain a message of social justice.

Whether in regards to racism, famine, or brutality, all of Carter's photos depict the horrors being dealt in Sudan.

The content of his photographs is less focused on elements of art, but rather the message portrayed by each photo.

Art Methods



Kevin Carter uses several methods to capture his images.

Outside of the elements and principles of art, Carter immersed himself completely in the environment of the photographs he was taking, in order to fully capture the mood set by the people whose lives he was capturing.

Within the elements and principles of art, Carter always makes sure his photos follow the rule of thirds, and makes his focal point slightly off center to draw and capture attention. He also creates contrast in some way; sometimes a rough scene with a peaceful background. He also balances space to create a perfect balance to accent which feature he wishes to present.

City By The Lake- Leonid Afremov

The composition of this oil painting expresses a tone of comfort and pleasure.



The red and orange colors present a warmth to the painting, which establishes the warm tone. It is also one of two focal points of the piece.

As the second focal point, the light blue area surrounding the city, draws attention away from the warmth being expressed by the trees, to the attraction of the city, showing a progression towards the second focal point.

In conclusion, this work utilizes color (mostly in the mid and background) to express tones of comfort. In conclusion, this work composes multiple elements to express a meaning of simple comforts.

The Vulture and the Little Girl- Kevin Carter



This photograph taken in Sudan is far more focused on the impacts rather than thematic elements that create its composition. While there is some use of foreground, middle, and background as well as some contrast created between the colors of the ground and the colors of the vulture and child (who actually was a boy), however the elements are not the focus. The photograph spins emotion to feel pity and remorse for the situation of the child, and anger at the poverty experienced by the children of Sudan. The photo connects to Afremov's painting as a way of contrast. This color-bland photo depicts hardships, while Afremov captures the beauty of life.

Famine in Sudan- Kevin Carter



Similar to his previous work, Carter utilizes his connection to emotion to make his work powerful. By focusing on the crying child, there is a contrast on his stomach from the dirt and the tears that are noticeable. In addition, there is also the subtle highlights of the medical wristband and the cultural necklace that are the only splash of color due to the basic neutral background. The child's placement of slightly off center serves to accent the child and their emotions. By placing the child as the sole focus of the photo, it is easy to notice the raw emotion highlighted by each individual aspect forming the composition. This is similar to how Carter formatted his previous work as well as how Afremov was able to communicate emotion through his piece.