

Introduction

What is art history?

How do we get meaning from art?

The Four Step Method

- Assessment of physical properties
- Analysis of visual or formal structure
- Identification of subject matter or conventional symbolism
- Integration within cultural context

The Elements of art

- Color, line, texture, space, shape, form, value
- **The Principles of Design**
- Unity, harmony/ balance, rhythm, similarity/contrast, emphasis, scale/proportion

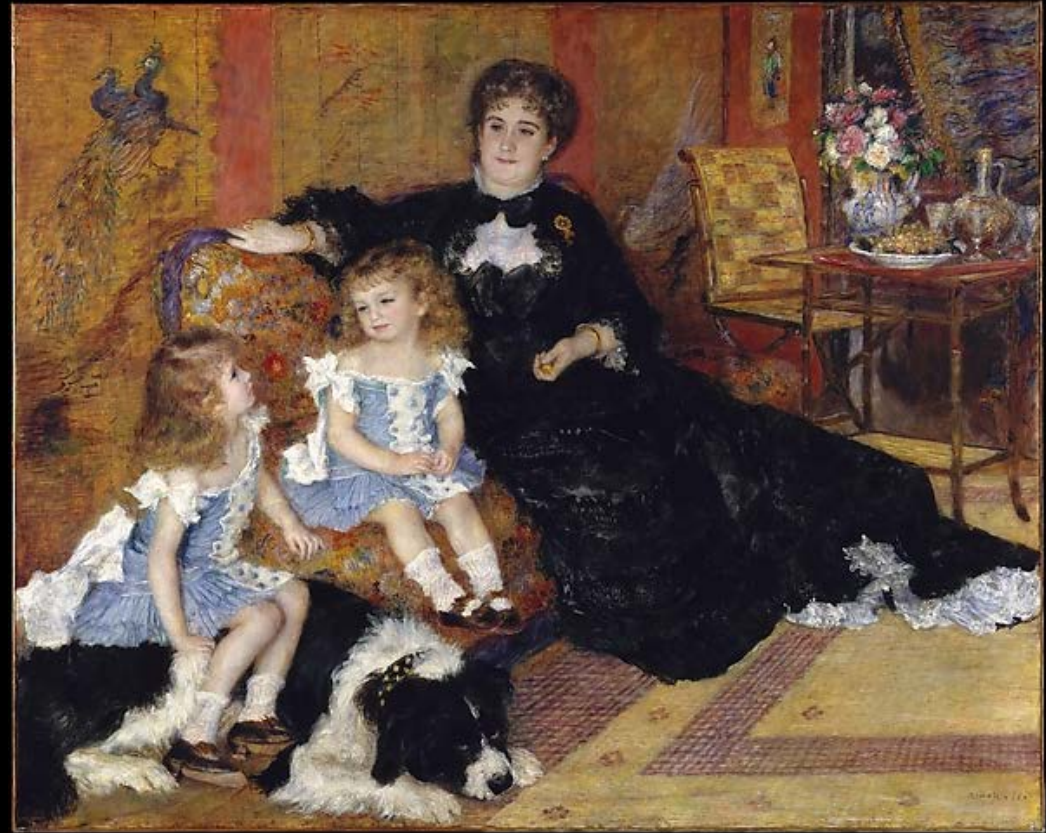
Line and Light



Form and Color



Composition



Identifying Subject Matter

- **Natural Subject Matter**

Recognizing forms and situations that we know from our own experience

- **Iconography**

Conventional meanings associated with forms and figures as bearers of narrative or symbolic content, often specific to a particular time and place.

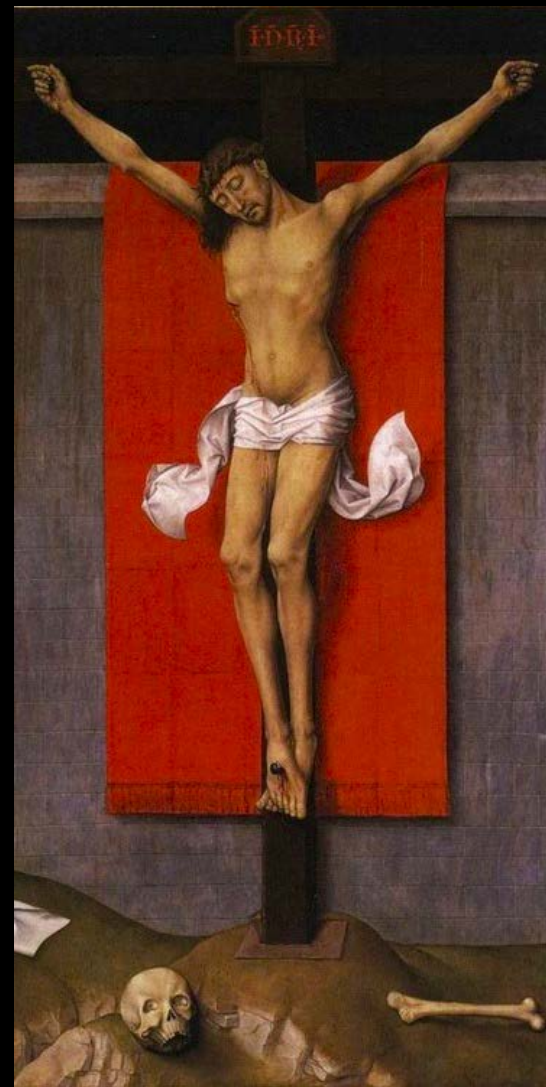


The closer in time and place we are to the subject, the easier it sometimes is to identify what it represents

Integration within cultural context also known as **Iconology**



A Case Study: Rogier van der Weyden Crucifixion with the Virgin and John the Baptist



Interpretation
changes as new
evidence is
discovered.