

## Visual Art 20

### Lesson 13: Painting Skills – Feel the Earth

#### Landscape Critique

Complete a critique of a Canadian landscape, using the following as a guide. You may wish to write jot notes as you look at the work, but form your critique as an essay with paragraphs.

Share your critique paragraph to your website under “Artist Connection.” Be sure to include the painting title, the artist, and an image (cited) of the work.

Critic: *Rachael Lao*

Artist: *Georgina Perkins Hunt*

Title of Work Critiqued: *the jewel of lake louise*

Image of Work:



Image Source: *Canadian Rocky Mountain Artist Georgina Hunt*

**Affirmation:** *List three to five things that are well done.*

- *Consistent and unified colour scheme with enough contrast*
- *Excellent brushwork with clean and precise brushstrokes*
- *Excellent depth of field where the elements gradually fade into the background*
- *Very well-balanced composition*
- *Captures the beauty and serenity of the scene depicted*

**Reflection:** *State your overall opinion on the work, and justify with details and evidence taken directly from the work.*

*My opinion of Georgina's work is she did a very good job painting Lake Louise. The first time I saw an image of her painting, I was very impressed by the brushwork, texture, and choice of colours. Every brush stroke suggests a sense of ease and decisiveness, as well as great attention to detail. Rather than the rocks by the shore appearing flat and dull, they are carefully formed into three-dimensional shapes. The reflections of the lake and the rocky surfaces of the mountains are also just some of the complex elements that she was able to capture wonderfully. Not only that, the colour palette is very well planned out because the painting is balanced in terms of value and shading. Overall, I really like Georgina's painting.*

**Technique:** *Comment on the technique used, based on techniques that you are familiar with; you might want to refer to the elements of art and design principles (next page) for ideas.*

*It appears that Georgina used many techniques in this painting. For example, her choice of colours was limited to create a sense of harmony and cohesiveness. Another thing she did was contrast the foliage and bushes with the snow and mountains. This follows the technique of creating a sense of depth by placing the warmer-toned elements closer to the viewer and the cooler-toned elements farther away. They also guide the viewer's attention by bringing emphasis on the lake and the valley that sits behind it. As for the cloudy sky, it creates a sense of space and openness that balances out the various details in the lower two-thirds of the painting.*

**Inquiry:** *Pose two to three questions to the artist.*

*My first question is about the process of her paintings. I would be interested in learning how she finds the perfect subject and the way she thinks while composing a painting. The second question is what advice she would give to aspiring artists. For example, if a person would like to improve their creative skills, what kind of practices would she suggest to them? She might be able to give some advice or techniques on how to get out of an art block (lack of inspiration / motivation).*

**Suggestion:** *Provide two to three suggestions for the artist going forward, on this piece in particular or the overall technique.*

*My first suggestion for Georgina is to include a subject that suits and interacts with the rest of her painting. While the mountains, trees, and lake are beautiful, I feel as though there is something else missing. I think adding a subject or small element, such as wildlife, would improve the scene by creating a story for the viewer to look at and think about. Another suggestion I would give to Georgina is to go beyond the canvas. I think her painting style would look wonderful on murals, clothing, or even tote bags. She should try exploring different painting surfaces and discover what makes her art stand out the most.*

**Translation:** *Consider what you think the artist was trying to convey in this piece, taking into account where they are from and where the piece is located; you may need to do additional research on the artist/subject to inform this section.*

*I think what Georgina was trying to convey in this piece is her appreciation for the beauty and serenity of nature. According to her biography on her website, she described how much the natural world influenced her art career, giving her inspiration and motivation in her work. She would also spend a great amount of time being in the mountains and experiencing the various forces of nature. All of this is clearly seen in her painting by how she depicted the scene of Lake Louise in Alberta. The title itself gives a clue to the painting's meaning by suggesting how the scene is like a jewel – an intricate design worthy of attention.*

**Illation:** *Draw a conclusion about the work, concentrating on the technique, what was well done, and your overall opinion, relying on the points above as detail and evidence to justify your conclusion.*

*In conclusion, I think Georgina did an excellent job with this work. She was able to create a painting that is pleasing to the eye and well-composed. The balance between the various shapes and forms, colours, and textures created a sense of harmony throughout her painting. I would be even more impressed if she had included a story in her painting, either adding some wildlife or a man-made structure. I think that would hold the viewer's attention for a longer time by encouraging them to analyze its purpose. Overall, I can tell that Georgina is a very skilled painter just by the way she carefully designed and arranged every element. I have no doubt that she will continue to have success throughout her painting journey.*

### Elements of Art

- Colour
- Line
- Shape
- Form
- Texture
- Value
- Space

### Design Principles

- Balance
- Contrast
- Emphasis
- Movement
- Pattern
- Rhythm
- Unity