

David (1748-1825)

Jacques-Louis David was a highly accomplished painter in the Neoclassic period. He studied art abroad outside of his native Paris in the French Academy at Rome. It was there that he became influenced by Roman art and subject matter. David's propagandist work inspired the citizens of France to revolt against an oppressive monarchy. Consequently, his political involvement with the Jacobins and his vote to have Louis XVI executed, led him to be exiled in Brussels where he later died in 1825.

The presence of the arcade relates to the overall strength and solidity of the composition, as well as the power of the men

This is an excellent example of linear perspective and implied depth. The focus of the work is the man in the center, and that seems to orientate the viewer to the work.

The Neoclassical period began in the late eighteenth century. Art within this category was unpretentious as compared to the Rococo period. Simple line, geometric shape, and order dominated the canvas of a neoclassical painting. Artists revisited the themes of Roman antiquity and endeavored to recapture the glory of ancient societies. Honor, glory, and sacrifice were common subjects of these works, and had a significant impact on the times in which they were created.



Symmetrical balance, unity, and variety produce an image that is neither overwhelming nor burdensome

*Self portrait
1794*



Light source comes in behind the three men, casting a shadow. Sun envelopes the father and women. This was created with respect to a certain time of day

Lines throughout the painting serve as strong directional forces which draws the eye to the center of the work. The father also appears to be framed at the center arch

The swooning women create a stark contrast to the brave, unflinching sons as they set off for battle. This type of female behavior reveals the frailty of women, and categorizes females as weak and helpless

KEY WORKS

Death of Socrates 1787

Death of Marat 1793

The Lictors Bringing Brutus the Bodies of His Sons 1789

The Oath of the Horatii¹⁷⁸⁴