

Artist	Ford Madox Brown
Title	Work
Date	completed 1865
Medium	oil on canvas
Scale	137 cm × 198 cm
Scope	Scene of working life
Style	Pre-Raphaelite



Influence from technological factors:
 Invention of tubes of paint allowed an artist to create their work outside of the studio space so we see an accurate depiction of a specific location in London.

Influence from cultural/social factors:
 The men were connecting water supplies so they were not just visually interesting but were also performing an important task. Clean drinking water lessened the incidence of alcoholism, the scourge of the lower classes, and freed overcrowded cities from cholera.
 Around the workers Brown has placed individuals to represent all the classes in society
 The idea of education is emphasised by the presence of Thomas Carlyle and Frederick Maurice. Both of these men encouraged the importance of work in the lives of the people and as a means of being occupied rather than falling in to idleness.

Stylistic comment and artistic influence: English painter whose work is associated with that of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, although he was never a member.
 During a visit to Italy in 1845, he met von Cornelius, a member of the Nazarenes. This meeting undoubtedly influenced both Brown's palette and his style

Use or development of materials, techniques & processes:
 Pre-Raphaelites painted figures and forms in great detail to convey a narrative clearly. They achieved this by applying paint to a wet white ground, thus allowing for brighter colours and the objects to be seen more clearly.

Influence from political factors:
 The face of Britain was changing dramatically as people flocked from the countryside into the towns to find work.
 Carlyle's book Past and Present was a key influence on the theme of this painting- it stated that people should engage in physical work to better themselves and society

Formal features	
Composition	Labourers in the centre -> eye automatically draws to them -> The workers in the centre break up the established relationship between the characters, throwing people together in new ways Labourers shown as heroic due to their central position and stances The painting is structured by the increasing compression of space from right to left, as the rural relaxation on the right side is replaced by the concentrated labour in the middle and the urban crush on the far left
Colour or texture	Bright colours due to the pre-Raphaelite way of painting onto a wet white background to make more vibrant colours Smooth texture Uses mainly earthy colours such as beige and green however adds a little bit of dark red to have some things stand out (red complementary colour to green)
Light & tone	Attention is given to the effects of light Light concentrated on labourers suggesting their heroic Shadow casts over MP and his daughter implying they the opposite of heroic (sketchy)
Space & depth or relief	Compact painting showing an accurate image of space and depth Shows depths by using natural orthogonal (which is the path and fence)
Line or brushwork	Short brushstrokes to capture movement of the dancing figures. No outlines on figures.