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| Artist | Eugene Delacroix |
| Title | Liberty leading the people |
| Date | 1830 |
| Medium | Oil on canvas |
| Scale | 260 x 325 cm |
| Scope | War or revolution in 2D, pre 1850’s |
| Location | Paris |

Historical context/subject of work:

The July Revolution of 1830 was an event that Delacroix, as a Parisian artist, simply had to paint. He felt it was his duty as a painter to record this event as the revolutionists felt it was their duty to fight. Delacroix's fascinating colours control the composition and combined with his intense brushstrokes create an unforgettable canvas.

The Revolution of 1830, better known as the July Revolution, was triggered after Louis XVIII died, and his brother, Charles X, rose to power. He established the French Constitution that many citizens of France opposed. Charles X wanted to give more power to the aristocracy, censor the press and take rights away from the middle classes and the poor. These sectors of society rose up against Charles and he was forced to abdicate. We see the classes unified in their fight against the king.

How does this example fit the scope of work:

War or revolution in 2D, pre 1850’s, it shows a revolution from French history which resulted in the overthrow and end of a royal dynasty.

Critical text quote:

“I may not have fought for my country, but I have painted for her”- Delacroix

Image:



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| Formal features |
| Composition | Pyramid structure, Liberty at the peak, adds balance to the busy and dramatic scene. Figure of Liberty dominates the composition, as she leads the charging people. |
| Colour or texture | Red, white and blue at the centre of canvas catches the eye, a colour scheme echoed throughout the painting in different clothes and figures etc and linking to the French flag (tricolore) |
| Light & tone | Light used sparingly on the canvas, but used to illuminate Liberty, as well as the fighter below her to remember those who had fallen. |
| Space & depth or relief | Background establishes the setting, each figure is proportioned and even giving a sense of depth to the painting. Background hazy suggesting smoke from gunfire and fires. The swirling clouds and smoke are typical of the style (Romanticism). Foreground forms clearer in detail to allow us to see each individual involved in the revolution.  |
| Line or brushwork | Diverse use of brushstrokes, from long and large continuous strokes to smaller more detailed additions. |