|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Artist | artist Pablo Picasso |
| Title | Guernica  |
| Date | June 1937 |
| Medium | oil painting on canvas |
| Scale | 3.49 meters (11 ft 5 in) tall and 7.76 meters (25 ft 6 in) wide |
| Scope | war |
| Patron | the Spanish Republican government  |
| Location | Paris |
| Function | To show the tragedy of the bombing. It shows the suffering of people and animals wrenched by violence and chaos |

Historical context/subject of work:

The painting was created in response to the bombing of Guernica, a Basque Country town in northern Spain, by Nazi Germany. Germany used the town as target practice and the bombing went on for around two hours straight.

How does this example fit the scope of work:

It shows the tragedy and terror of war upon civilians.

Image: 

Critical text quote:

Noah Chareny “the world looked upon the action with horror, recognizing that innocent civilians would not be exempt from war”

|  |
| --- |
| Formal features |
| Composition | Long and elongated shape.  |
| Colour or texture | gray, black, and white |
| Light & tone | Range of tone, the background is darker so it recedes. The main subjects are lighter in order to become more prominent. |
| Space & depth or relief | The figures are spaced all around the painting and overlapping. |
| Line or brushwork | The brushwork is smooth and untraceable because the shaped are blocky and solid. |

Cultural/social factors:

Picasso wanted to portray the trauma of Guernica’s people instead of reporting the event as a report.

Political factors:

Germany bombed Guernica as target practise. ☹

Artist’s involvement:

Picasso wasn’t in Spain or Guernica but was commissioned to paint the scene. He had only heard about the conflict through the newspaper articles produced on it. Therefore he made his painting black and white, as well as long and elongated like a newspaper. You are supposed to read the painting left to right like how you would read the story in the papers.