

I decided to write about Raphaelle Peale, *Blackberries*, c. 1813. I definitely think the first thing that attracted me to the painting was the depth and value of the blackberries, and the colors. The tones of the colors are very rich, with reds, deep purples, and black tones being used to describe the berries. The green hues of the leaves also differ as the light hits the berry branches from the left. I feel like the berry painting is sensual in some way— almost like the berries are on display to be eaten, or to lure one to eat them. The dark lighting is also very interesting to me. The dark setting and lighting creates an image of the berries sitting idly in a room, adding to the almost sensual feeling of being desired to be eaten, but also maybe adding to a feeling of doom as well. There is a mood of hesitation to me for some reason when it comes to this painting, almost like the berries are there to be eaten. They look tantalizing, with the shine and gloss of fresh berries, but they also look almost dangerous to me as well. This is the mood and story that is invoked in me from the painting, but I think Peale painted the picture of the berries in order to work with the aspect of value and coloristic hues in the artistic world. I feel that Peale was working on three-dimensionalism and portraiture with this painting, especially with the lighting hitting the plants on one side of the painting more, and the light reflecting in the berries and bowl more on the left side, compared to the right side. Shadowing/shading is an important aspect of value, and Peale portrays that in the black background of the painting. The audience can clearly tell that the berries are in a dark setting with lighting hitting from the left, because of Peale's fantastic use of shading, dimension/value, and hues/tones of the colored objects (bowl and berries) he aimed to portray.