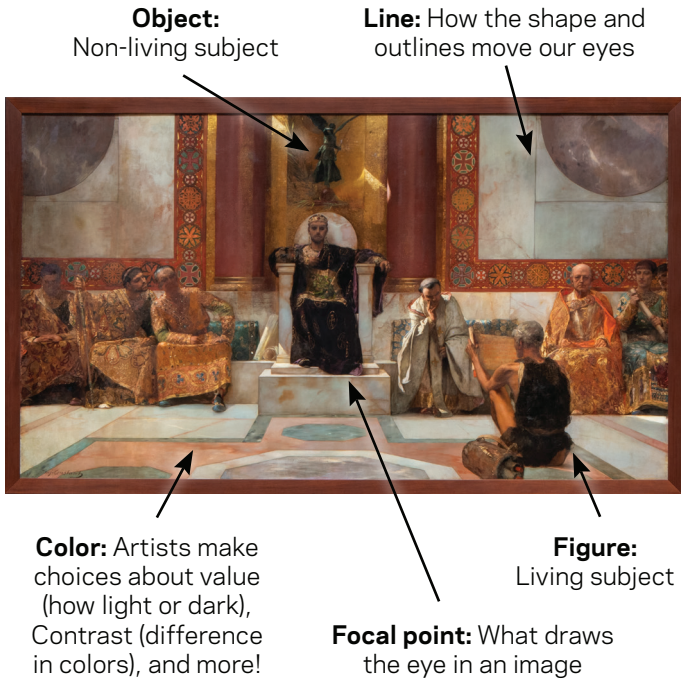


HOW TO BREAKDOWN A WORK OF ART

Composition: Size and arrangement of figures and objects



LABEL READING

You will see labels next to each work of art at The Ringling. These labels tell us information about the art! If there is a missing section on the label, it means that the information is unknown. Curators and scholars are continually working to learn more about the art in our collection!

Artist	→	Jean Joseph Benjamin Constant
Nationality, life dates	→	French, 1845–1902
Title, date	→	Emperor Justinian , 1886
Materials	→	Oil on canvas
How it came to The Ringling	→	Bequest of John Ringling, 1936, SN442

Your turn! Go find a label for a work of art in the museum. Can you find the artist's name and when the artwork was created?

HOW TO ENGAGE WITH ART

1. Look closely at the work of art and make observations.

- What is going on here? What else do you see?
- Notice the colors used, size of the work, and subject matter.

2. Ask open-ended questions to spark a conversation.

- What does this remind you of?
- If you were inside this painting, what would you do?

3. Act it out!

It can be helpful to understand the mood of a work of art by posing like the figures in the work. Try acting out the scene and discuss how each character is feeling and acting. What will happen next?

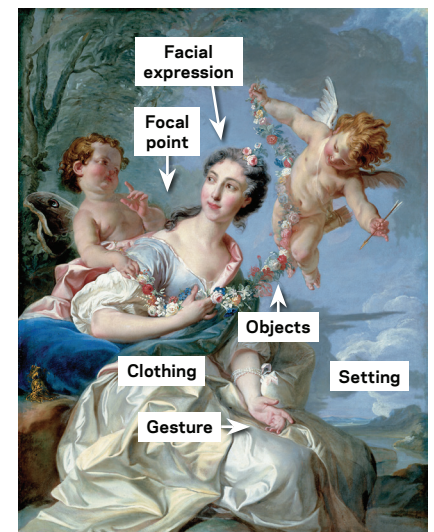
4. It's ok to not know all the answers!

Remember, art is subjective and everyone views art with a different perspective.

WHAT'S IN A PORTRAIT?

Portraits show us images of people. We can learn a lot about someone from their portrait. There are six elements to a portrait. Can you find a portrait in the museum and analyze its different elements?

1. Facial expression
2. Focal point
3. Gesture
4. Clothing
5. Objects
6. Setting



ART VOCABULARY

Color: The way we see light reflected from objects. Color is an element of art.

Composition: The thoughtful size and arrangement of figures and objects in a work of art.

Elements of Art: The components in a work of art: line, color, shape, form, texture, value, and space.

Facial expression: The feeling or emotion shown on someone's face. Facial expression is one of the six elements of a portrait.

Figure: A living being in a work of art such as a person or an animal.

Focal point: The section of a work of art that attracts the viewer's eye as the center of interest. Focal point is one of the six elements of a portrait.

Form: A three-dimensional object in a work of art. Form is an element of art.

Genre: The type of artwork classified by subject, such as history, landscape, portrait, or still life.

Gesture: A movement of part of the body, especially a hand or the head, to express an idea or meaning. Gesture is one of the six elements of a portrait.

Line: A mark that is made or suggested that can vary in direction, weight, and length. Line is an element of art.

Medium: The material that is used to create a work of art

Objects: Non-living item in a work of art. Objects are one of the six elements of a portrait.

Portrait: A work of art showing a specific person

Setting: Where a work of art takes place. Setting is one of the six elements of a portrait.

Shape: An area bounded by a line. Shape is an element of art.

Space: the areas around, in between, or within shapes and forms in a work of art. Space is an element of art.

Texture: How the surface of an object looks or feels. Texture is an element of art.

Value: How light or dark a color or hue can be. Value is an element of art.

NOTES
