

Comparative Study by Justin Love

My study is focus on 3 artwork from 2 different artists. The 2 paintings are, “Girl with a Pearl Earring” and “View of Delft,” from Johannes Vermeer,” and “Boy with a Basket of Fruit” by Caravaggio. Within these pieces I will be comparing and contrasting the cultural significance and the personal expression such as the theme, movement, and influences of the artists. I will also be comparing and contrasting 2 of my artwork with the 3 paintings.



Boy with a Basket of Fruit (1593)



View of Delft (1660–1661)



Girl with a Pearl Earring
(1665)

Cultural Significance of Johannes Vermeer

Johannes Vermeer was a famous Dutch Artist during the Dutch Golden Age, he lived from 1632-1675 in the Netherlands. During the Dutch Golden Age was also the beginning of the Baroque art movement in the 1600. Other than Vermeer, people like Caravaggio, Rembrandt and Rubens were one of the most well known Dutch artist. Another thing during the 1600 was when the Netherlands joined the 80 year War to fight for their independence from the Spanish Crown between 1568-1648.

The **Girl with a Pearl Earring** shows a dark place representing the dark times, however with the dark, the bright woman that shines in the painting as if her brightness shows the bright future the Dutch were looking forward to. The **View of Delft** shows a peaceful cityscape of Delfts representing the Netherlands winning the 80 year war showing not only freedom but also peace.



View of delft (1660-1661)

<https://colourlex.com/project/vermeer-view-of-delft/>

Girl with a Pearl Earring (1665)

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Girl-with-a-Pearl-Earring-by-Vermeer>



Girl With A Pearl Earring: The Purpose & Function



Girl with a Pearl Earring
(1665)

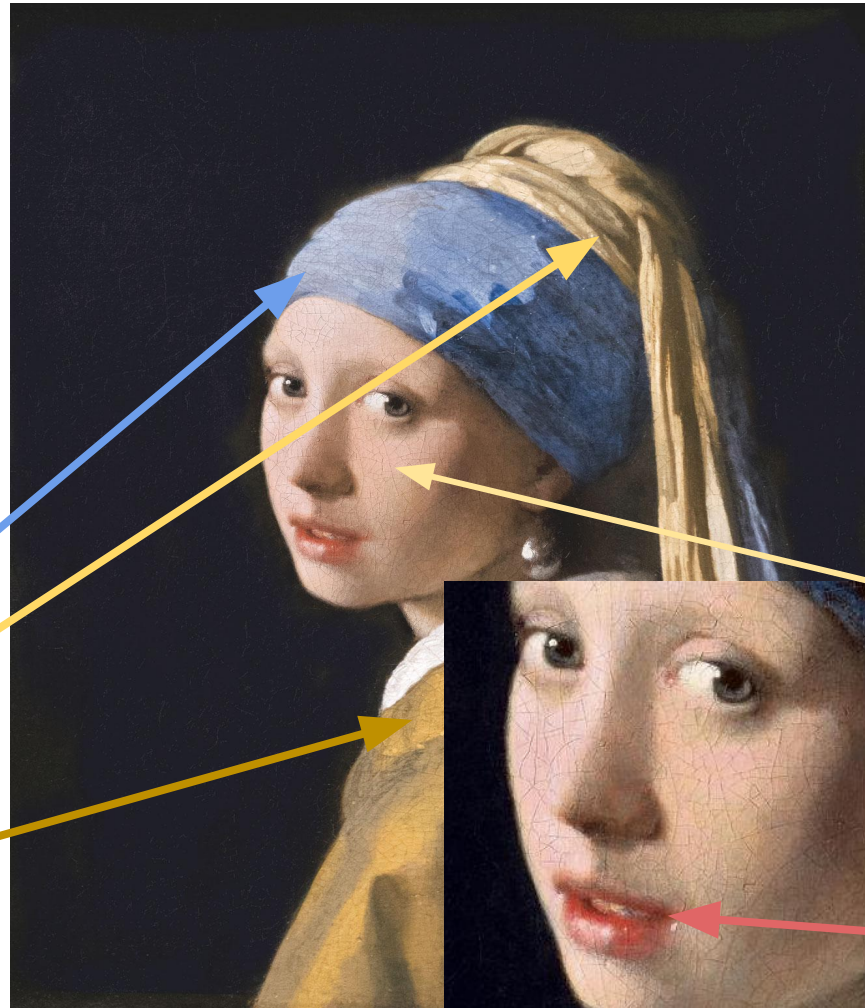
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Girl-with-a-Pearl-Earring-by-Vermeer>

The Purpose of the Girl with a Pearl Earring is an artwork that gave an important message. Vermeer painted this artwork to send message of hope for the people living in the Netherlands. The Function of the painting is to show how the people must've felt and was hoping during the 80 year war fighting for their freedom. In the end, the dutch people won the war and the people got their hope which is their freedom. This is what the painting is representing the darkness is reminding the dark times for the dutch people and the lady is symbolizing a bright future now that they have their freedom and no one is controlling them.

Girl With A Pearl Earring: The Formal Qualities

The Girl With A Pearl Earring shows a brightful young lady somewhere in a dark room whose body position is facing towards the left but her face is facing towards the viewer, which draws their attention.

The expression shows a slight exhaustion and weary in her face while wearing a blue and gold oriental turban on her head. Also, she is wearing a darker tone gold jacket with a white collar beneath.



Girl with a Pearl Earring (1665)

Vermeer used 4 very distinct elements of direction, color, motion, and dimension for his piece and also using oil painting giving the canvas a natural and realistic painting.

The color of the skin was the color yellow ochre which is a mixture of yellow, white and a touch of red and blue. As for the lips, it was a mix of red, brown, white, and yellow ochre.

View of Delfts: The Purpose & Function

The Purpose of the View of Delfts is an artwork that gave an important message. Vermeer painted this artwork to send message of peace and their freedom. The Function of the painting wasn't showing how the people felt and was hoping during the 80 year war like how *Girl with the pearl Earrings* was representing but its showing how the people felt after winning the 80 year war from 1568-1648 with having their freedom and is finally at peace.



View of Delft (1660-1661)

<https://colourlex.com/project/vermeer-view-of-delft/>

View of Delfts: The Formal Qualities

The *View of Delfts* shows a brightful and peaceful city during the day. Here it shows water of the Kolk towards Vermeer's hometown Delfts. One part of the painting shows a red Eastern gate of Defts called the Schiedam Gate using **brown and yellow** for the two towers and **dark blue for roofing**. He used these 2 colors for most of the buildings. For the clouds he used white and a small amount of **natural ultramarine and yellow ochre**. For the sand on the bottom, he used a mix of **White, Chalk, and umber**



Cultural Significance of Caravaggio

Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio was an Italian painter best known for his intense and unsettling realism paintings, he lived from 1571-1610 which was during both the Renaissance and Baroque period. Baroque has a style of architect and Renaissance was seen as Rebirth. During the Baroque was the 30 year War which took place from 1618-1648. Another thing that was going on was the black death also known as plague in London from 1592-1593.

The **Boy with a Basket of Fruit** shows a greyish dark place however with the greyish dark room shows a Boy carrying a fruit basket. The boy illuminates by a strong light entering the room from outside of the paintings frame but with that, the boy expression shows a tired but sadness look on his face. Boy with a Basket of Fruit painting is representing the London plague in 1592 that killed over 15,000 people.



Boy with a Basket of Fruit (1593)

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/caravaggio/boy-with-a-basket-of-fruit-1593-1>

Boy with a Basket of Fruit: The Purpose & Function

Boy with a Basket of Fruit was painted a year after the plague in London. Around the time Caravaggio was 6, the black death rolled into his life killing almost his entire family. The Purpose of the painting was to express the grief over the losing someone from that deceased as a reminder of when he lost his family the same way.

The Function of the painting shows that Caravaggio was being realistic when painting this piece. Shown in the fruit basket that by capturing what inside of the fruit basket, he idealizes the shape, texture, even the arrangements and still, the viewers are still drawn into the beautiful and exquisite subject.



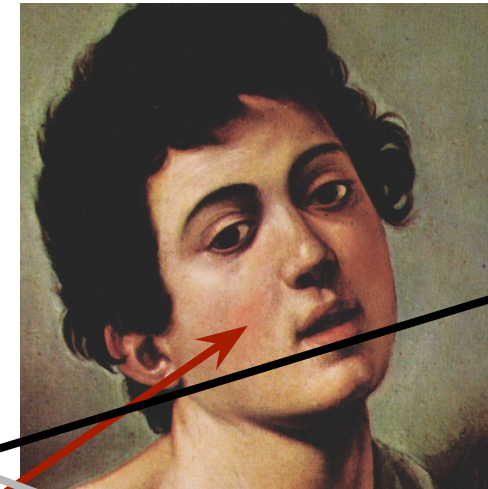
Boy with a Basket of Fruit (1593)

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/caravaggio/boy-with-a-basket-of-fruit-1593-1>

Boy with a Basket of Fruit: The Formal Qualities

The **Boy with a Basket of Fruit** painting, Caravaggio shows a boy in a grey room but with a light shining at the boy. Carragivogo painted different kinds of fruit such as grapes which has 2 black, 1 red, and 1 white grapes, apples, pomegranate, pears, apricots, figs, and lemon leaves.

The color of the boy's skin is was a mix of red and light brown making it as a peach skin tone of the boy wearing a white robe and with the robe you can see the realistic details of the robe with the wrinkles and shadows, same for the fruits, basket, hand, and face.



Comparison of Girl With A Pearl Earring & View of Delfts



View of Delft (1660-1661)

<https://colourlex.com/project/vermeer-view-of-delft/>

The View of Delfts and Girl with a Pearl Earring share similarities with each other. To start off, the movement were both painted by Johannes Vermeer during the Dutch Golden Age which artist would blend the subjects skin and used bold shadows against a dark background to characterized by great drama, rich, deep color, dark shadows and intense light which can be shown in the background of Girl with a Pearl Earring and the shadows shown reflecting in the water in the View of Delfs



Girl with a Pearl Earring (1665)

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Comparison of Boy with a Basket of Fruit & View of Delfts



Boy with a Basket Of
Fruit (1593)

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/caravaggio/boy-with-a-basket-of-fruit-1593-1>

The Boy with a Basket of Fruit and View of Delfts are two different paintings that share some similarities with each other. For starters, what I notice both about the paintings is that they share Baroque art movement. Another thing I notice is that the fruit basket is full of different bright and colorful fruit similar to the View of Delft. Even though the painting doesn't show fruit like the Caravaggio's painting, it is bright and colorful all around, it even shows a shadow in the lake like how the there is shadows shown in the background of the Boy with a Basket of Fruit.



View of Delft
(1660-1661)

<https://colourlex.com/project/vermeer-view-of-delft/>

Comparison of Boy with a Basket of Fruit & Girl With A Pearl Earring



Boy with a Basket Of Fruit (1593)

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/caravaggio/boy-with-a-basket-of-fruit-1593-1>

The Boy with a Basket of Fruit and Girl with a Pearl Earring are two different paintings that share some similarities with each other. Other than that their both portraits, what I notice instantly were the painting's backgrounds. Although Boy with a Basket Of Fruit background is slightly brighter than the other painting, it's still has dark areas with the boy's face shining at him which is exactly like the Girl with a Pearl Earring, although it's dark in the place she is, her face still shines out in the painting. Another thing I notice were their expressions on their faces, it both shows surprise look with a slight bit of sadness on their faces, this is because Caravaggio's painting was painted during the plague in London which would be a reminder of the death of his family from that disease and Vermeer's work was painted during the 80 year War as his country was fighting for their freedom meaning that both these paintings were painted during their dark times.



Girl with a Pearl Earring (1665)

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Girl-with-a-Pearl-Earring-by-Vermeer>

The Differences of Girl With A Pearl Earring & View of Delfts



View of Delft (1660-1661)

<https://colourlex.com/project/vermeer-view-of-delft/>

The View of Delfts and Girl with a Pearl Earring are two different paintings from the same artist. What I notice instantly between both paintings is that View of Delft is a cityscape focusing on the town in the back and Girl with a Pearl Earring is self portrait which focus is the lady. Another example that I notice that's different is the background, the View of Delfts background shows a blue sky with clouds during the day and Girl with a Pearl Earring shows her somewhere in a dark place which means Girl with a Pearl Earring takes inside and View of Delft takes place outside.



Girl with a Pearl Earring (1665)

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The Differences of the Boy with a Basket of Fruit & View of Delft



Boy with a Basket Of Fruit (1593)

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/caravaggio/boy-with-a-basket-of-fruit-1593-1>

Boy with a Basket of Fruit and View of Delft are two different paintings from two different artists. What I notice just like Girl with the Pearl Earring, the Boy with a Basket of Fruit takes place inside and View of Delft takes place outside because the background of View of Delft's background shows a blue sky with clouds and Boy with a Basket of Fruit shows the boy somewhere in a dark and grey room. Another thing I notice is that View of Delft represents peace, freedom, and no fear from winning the 80-year War to fight while the Boy with a Basket of Fruit doesn't show that, instead it shows sadness and a bit of fear from the black death also known as the plague which means View of Delft represents happiness and peace and Boy with a Basket of Fruit shows sadness, hopelessness, and fear.



View of Delft(1660-1661)

<https://colourlex.com/project/vermeer-view-of-delft/>

The Differences of Boy with a Basket of Fruit & Girl With A Pearl Earring



Boy with a Basket Of Fruit
(1593)

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/caravaggio/boy-with-a-basket-of-fruit-1593-1>

Although both the Boy with a Basket of Fruit and Girl with a Pearl Earring do share a lot of similarities with each other. They also have a lot of differences too. Other than their opposite genders, one thing I notice about these two paintings is the expressions in both the self portraits, the Girl with a Pearl Earring expression is surprised by something and Boy with a Basket of Fruit expresses sadness. As I mentioned before, the Boy with a Basket of Fruit expresses sadness, fear and hopelessness but the Girl with a Pearl Earring shows Hope and peace for the future. Another thing I've notice is the clothing type. In the Girl with a Pearl Earring, the lady's golden jacket covers her shoulder and almost her whole neck as well and also her blue and golden turban covers the top of her head, not knowing the color of her hair while the Boy with a Basket of Fruit, his robe is hanging off his shoulder and the portrait shows the boys hair unlike the lady.



Girl with a Pearl Earring
(1665)

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Girl-with-a-Pearl-Earring-by-Vermeer>

The Similarities & Differences of My Work & Boy with a Basket of Fruit



**Pillar Fruit Basket
(2021)**

<https://love2justin.weebly.com/project-1-pillar-fruit-basket.html>

The difference that is between these 2 paintings is the lighting. I notice how the background on Caravaggio's painting is dark but still shines on the boy and the fruit basket to know that's focus of the painting. My work is different from that, not only that the colors are different, but background doesn't shine towards the main focus of my painting but it does have a similarity of the focus being a fruit basket.

What's similar about these 2 paintings is that when I look at these paintings, I notice the different colors of fruit that is shown in both paintings and that both of the painting's main focus is the fruit basket.



**Boy with a Basket Of
Fruit (1593)**

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/caravaggio/boy-with-a-basket-of-fruit-1593-1>

Similarities & Differences of My Work & View of Delft



Pillar Fruit

Basket (2021)

<https://love2justin.weebly.com/project-1-pillar-fruit-basket.html>

What is similar about these 2 painting is the meaning behind of it. Usually a fruit basket is usually meant for a gift that is sent to someone usually for a thank you. I see many things when I look at my painting but this is one of if. I see that as a similar to View of Delft because when I look at this painting. As I mentioned before, the View of Delft represents the Netherlands winning the 80 year war showing the freedom and peace the people and that this wouldn't happened if it weren't for the people who fought during the War so Vermeer is thanking them through his painting.

The difference between my work and View of Delft is the background. In the View of Delft, the painting's background takes place outdoors during the, the back shows a blue sky with a few clouds around while my painting's background is a simple yellow with little shadows around and also it takes place inside so neither the color of the background is the similar either. Another difference is the focus, Vermeer focus is the many buildings in town while my painting's main focus is the different fruits inside the basket.



View of Delft (1660-1661)

<https://colourlex.com/project/vermeer-view-of-delft/>

Similarities & Differences of My Work & Girl with the Pearl Earring



<https://love2justin.weebly.com/project-1-pillar-fruit-basket.html>

What's **similar** about my painting and Vermeer's painting Girl with the Pearl Earring is the focus, both painting's main focus are centered in the middle of the painting. Another thing I notice is the open space in the background and that in the background the warm tone in the background show a similar tone to the girl's jacket. The **Difference** between the is what the focus is, my painting shows focus is the fruit basket and Vermeer's focus is the woman. Another difference is the many colors in the fruit basket compare to how Vermeer's color is.

What's **similar** about my 2nd work and the Girl with the Pearl Earring is the background is the theme background. Though the colors are different, the theme of both shows a dark theme. Another similarity about the background is the open space, both having an empty part of the painting. Another similarity is the the blue tone has a similar highlight to the girl's turban that she has on. The **differences** between my 2nd painting and the Girl with the Pearl Earring painting is that my painting is a landscape that mainly is capturing the scenery while Vermeer's painting captures the mood and personality of the lady. Another difference is the colors of the background. Though the theme of the background is dark, the colors is what the different from each other.



<https://love2justin.weebly.com/project-4--nightscape-painting.html>

Similarities & Differences of My Work & View of Delft



Starry forest
(2021)

<https://love2justin.weebly.com/project-4--nightscape-painting.html>

What is similar about my work and View of Delft is peaceful theme to it. When I painted this, I wanted to imagine an ideal place that was peaceful to be at. This is what I see when I look at my work and this what I see when I see look at the View of Delft because the even though there was a war that killed many people, in the end, there was peace and Vermeer painting shows the sacrifice for freedom and peace. There are also small similarities like a river, bridge, and a home plus both paintings are set outside.

What's different about these 2 is the theme. View of Delft shows a small beach on the bottom of the painting with a river and across the river is a small town that all takes place during the day, this scenery is different from my work because my painting takes place out in the woods with a house, watermill, and trees surrounding the area at night, both scenery are both different from each other.



View of Delft
(1660-1661)

<https://colourlex.com/project/vermeer-view-of-delft/>

The Similarities & Differences of My Work & Boy with a Basket of Fruit



Starry forest (2021)

<https://love2justin.weebly.com/project-4--night-scape-painting.html>

The similarities between my and Boy with a Basket of Fruit is the environment. I notice that both share a dark surrounding but still having light around. In my painting though the theme is supposed to be night the background shows a mix of dark and light, same for the background of the Boy with a Basket of Fruit, though the room is dark there's still a mix of both light and dark.

Other than the fact my work is a landscape and Caravaggio's painting is just a portrait of someone, what is different about the 2 paintings is the setting. My painting is set outside at night while Caravaggio's painting is set in a room someone, it's not clear what time of the day it is, only that it's painted in a dark grey room.



Boy with a Basket Of Fruit (1593)

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/caravaggio/boy-with-a-basket-of-fruit-1593-1>