

AAD011 CASE STUDY

Sarah McDonald

Module: contextual research and understanding

Theme: identity



Hesitating between the Arts of Music and Painting, Angelica Kauffman.

Angelica Kauffman was skilled at both painting and music which led her to have to make a difficult decision when choosing what to choose for her career path. This painting represents her struggle to choose which art form to pursue, as shown in this self portrait.

This portrait showcases Angelica's identity crisis when choosing between a profession in painting, which was traditionally a male dominated field. Angelica shows her worries in this decision with the symbolism of a long and hard journey awaiting, (the figure of painting is pointing to a far destination.) Art of Music was traditionally more feminine and would have been the easier choice to make. The figure in the middle which represents Angelica, seems to favor the music figure rather than face the more challenging option. When looking at this painting, it is clear that the figure in white is being confronted with a decision and is weighing up her odds.

I chose this artwork to study under the theme of "Identity" as I believe that this painting showcases the struggle between figuring out one's identity. Angelica depicted her struggle in choosing what talent she identified herself with and what she loved the most.

