

AAD011 CASE STUDY

SARAH MCDONALD

MODULE: Contextual Research and Understanding

Theme: Gender

Artist: Paula Rego

Painting: Snow White Swallows the Poisoned Apple, 1995



Artist Paula Rego represents gender and femininity in her work. In particular her “Snow White” series. I have selected a painting from this series as I like the subtlety of the way her message is getting across as portrayed in her changes of choice.

Paula Rego’s painting titled ‘Snow White Swallows the Poisoned Apple’, reimagines the tale of the swallowing of the poisoned apple to expose societal ideals towards the youth of women. The snow white presented in Rego’s painting is not the beautiful and youthful princess we all know but a middle-aged woman with worn feet and slightly hairy legs. Snow displays the suffering of her death through the agonised clutching of the base of

her neck and skirt. The skirt is used as a symbolism of her sexual nature and the clutching of it represents the attempt to stop something from slipping away. The adaptation of Snow white's age in the painting nods towards the enforcement society has on women's worth that aging is a violation.

The painting reflects sexuality and the aging of women.