

Isaac Hernandez Comparative Study





"The Son of Man" by Rene Magritte

"The Last Supper" by Leonardo Da Vinci

"Time Transfixed" by Rene Magritte

In this comparative study I would be analyzing the formal qualities, culture and the function and purpose of two artworks by artist Rene Magritte and one artwork by Leonardo Da Vinci. The artworks created by Rene Magritte are The Son of Man and Time Transfixed. The artwork created by Leonardo Da Vinci is The Last Supper. For their formal qualities I will be analyzing the artworks form as well as the use of **light**, **texture** in the work and the use of **space**. As I talk about the characteristics of all three artworks I will also compare the three artworks with one another along with some pieces created by myself.

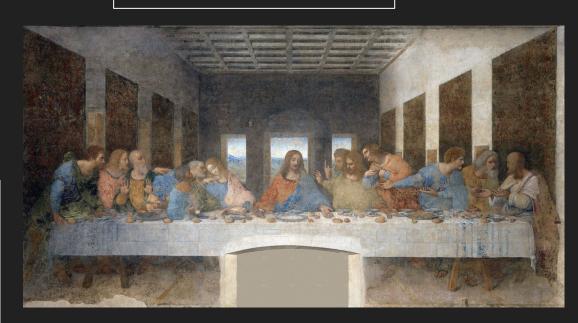
# Cultural Significance

#### <u>Renaissance</u>

As *The Last Supper* was created in 1485-1498 in during the Renaissance period. Britannica states that Renaissance art culture is made by a gradual shift from the abstract forms of the medieval period to the representational forms of the 15th century.

Something about the painting I found that connects to cultural significance was, the location of the painting. This painting is located in Santa Maria delle Grazie and this is a church located in Italy. This connects to its cultural significance as the painting is located inside a church. Since it's inside a church, you can see the belief of Christianity through this artwork. This artwork can also be a symbol of an event that happens in the bible, Matthew 26:21-23, as Jesus tells his apostles that one of them will betray him and they start wondering who will betray Jesus. The Last Supper created by Leonardo Da Vinci shows a very strong belief in Jesus and Christianity. This entire painting can be considered a symbol for Christianity. The person in the center of the artwork who is Jesus, can be the symbol of Christianity by itself. Another symbol you can see is the wine and bread that Jesus is pointing at in the picture. The wine and bread can represent the blood and body of Jesus.

"The Last Supper" by Leonardo Da Vinci









#### Maria delle Grazie church, Italy

The function of this artwork is to express the different emotions of the apostles had in the moment that Jesus said one of them would betray him. In the painting you can see that each one of the apostles has different expressions. This artwork has symbolic and religious function. This is due to the fact that this artwork is located in a church in Italy called Santa Maria delle Grazie. You can see that it stands a symbol of religion which is Christianity. Another thing you can see is that the artwork has is that it captures the movement of each if the apostles, this is connected to the function of being expressive as each of the apostles has their own reaction and motion and being descriptive.

# Why Was the art made?

On of the functions that this painting can have is, the beautiful details that the painter, who was Leonardo Da Vinci put into it. The painting can be seen as having a historical meaning as this painting was made back in between 1494 and 1498. You can see how the artist from that time use paints and different mediums to express their feelings.



"The Last Supper" by Leonardo Da Vinci

#### Why Was the art made?

This artwork is a painting. You can clearly tell that this artwork is old(was created in 1468), as some paint is chipping off but this artwork overall has been kept in great condition keeping in mind that this artwork was done between 1495 and 1498. The specific mediums used are painting, Mural and Fresco. When looking at the artwork you can see that Leonardo Da Vinci used a lot of warm colors in the painting. He also used a couple of light colors for the clothing of the people in the painting.

## **Formal Qualities**



The use of light in this picture is shown as trying to make the middle of the painting look more important since most light focuses in the middle of the painting. In the outsides of the painting, light is less bright. When looking at the structure and the way this artwork was made, you will be able to see that some parts of the painting have started to crumble or fall apart. This is due to the artwork being old. According to milan-museum.com. the painting has been restored and this took place in 1999.



Some other formal qualities I've seen in the artwork was the use of details in the painting. You can see how the painting looks so realistic and each of the apostles including Jesus has different expressions in their faces. I feel like Leonardo Da Vinci made the painting focus on Jesus a bit more than the apostles as Jesus stands in the middle and the midsection of the painting is were the most light is.

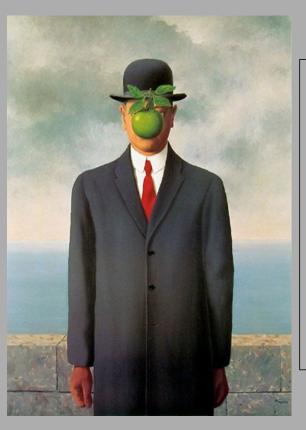
Another formal quality is the use of depth in the artwork. The artwork looks 3 dimensional and you are able to feel as if the painting could keep going due to the space

# Cultural Significance In the art of Rene Magritte



Rene Magritte is the creator of The Son of Man, Time transfixed, Memory and other paintings and artworks. He was a well known Surrealist artist. Surrealism art began approximately around 1920 after the aftermath of the World War I. Surrealism is an art culture that expresses a rational vision of life connecting it to some sort of dream, something out of place, tying them together to make things seem functional and real. Created in 1964, a few years after surrealism art culture began Rene Magritte used surrealism in The Son of Man. Some beliefs and ideas presented in The Son of Man painting are, the idea and belief of what Rene Magritte wore in his everyday life. Keeping in mind that this is a "Self portrait", you can see that in the painting he is wearing a suit and a bowler hat. This is apparently what Rene Magritte usually wore, a nice suit and a similar hat. Another thing you might notice right away due to the high contrast of cool colors and certain bright colors, might be the apple. This can serve as a cultural religious symbol. Although Rene Magritte did not see the green apple as religious symbol, many people might connect the green apple to religion. This surrealism art culture is also depicted in Time Transfixed although this painting was created sooner in 1938 and it tends to captivate surrealism culture even more as its much more noticeable.





# **Function and Purpose**

The Son of Man was supposed to be a self portrait but Rene magritte added surrealism into it. Magritte also stated that this "occurs endlessly" and "each thing we see hides another, we always want to see what is being hidden by what we see. There is an interest in what is hidden and what the visible does not show us. This interest can take the form of a fairly intense feeling, a kind of contest, I could say, between the hidden visible and apparent visible". As he says this, you start to really question what face is the character doing and it leaves you wondering.

As we look at The Son of Man, we can assume that this artwork is a self portrait, this is true. In 1963 Rene magritte was commissioned to create his self portrait. As he accepted this he worked on the painting and he noticed it was difficult for him to paint in the traditional self portrait fashion. To compensate this, he used surrealism in his self portrait. When looking at The Son of Man, you wonder why the green apple is floating in the middle of the painting. When Rene Magritte did this painting, he put the green apple floating in front of his face to hide his face expressions. Another purpose this painting can have is the idea of conformity and the way people tend to hide themselves to try and fit into society.



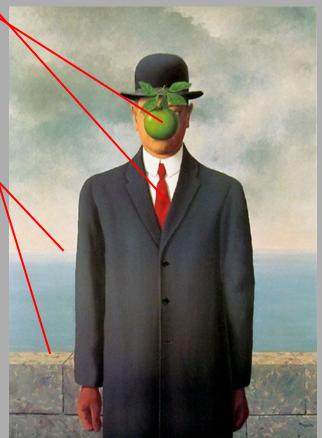


Some formal qualities we can see in his work are the contrast between cool colors such as different tones of blues and grays, but then you get the opposite of cool colors which is a red tie and a green apple. As a viewer this makes us look away from the cool colors and makes us focus on the bright colors. Which are almost at the center of the painting.

Another formal quality you can see in The son of Man is the use of line. This artwork has a lot of use of line, almost everything looks symmetric or parallel to something else in the painting. We can see the use of line in the background, as the horizon line in the background, the horizontal lines from the ocean and the wall behind the figure.

The use of light can be seen as Rene magritte used different tones of cools colors, giving the painting a sombernes look. When doing this, it makes the viewer see a cloudy day. He also gives it the mood of somberness as he gives the main character a black suit which goes with the gloominess of the artwork.

## **Formal Qualities**





This painting was created in 1964. The medium used in this artwork was painting, the paint used was oil paint. Oil paints tend to dry much slower than acrylic paints, which helps to blend colors better. When looking closely at the painting, you are able to observe the eyes peeking over the edge of the green apple. Another thing that is well hidden in the painting is how

his left elbow is

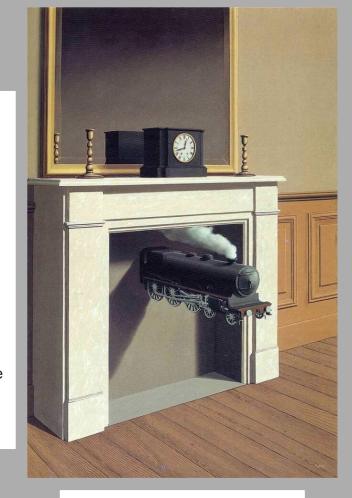
bending

backwards.

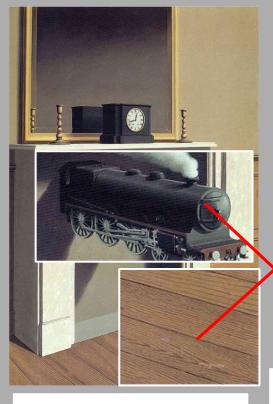
## **Function and Purpose**

Created in 1938 Time Transfixed was an artwork created for former supporter of Rene Magritte called Edward James. This artwork was created just a few years after the surrealism culture began(1920) so this painting can also serve the purpose of showing the viewer how surrealism works and how it can give connections to the everyday world. This artwork was an oil painting which as stated was created for Edward James. The surrealist painting shows a locomotive stabbing through the fireplace. This had a purpose as Rene Magritte hoped that Edward James would place the artwork by the staircase as this way the locomotive would "stab" guest as they went up the stairs. Although this is what Rene Magritte envisioned this was not what happen as Edward James decided to add the artwork by his own fireplace. Later on in 1970 the art institute bought the piece of art from Edward James.

Another purpose that the Locomotive was used and created for was to destroy the piece of the room as without the locomotive the painting would just have been a very calm and ordinary painting. Along with being surrealism this artwork connects the private and the industrial and the everyday and the surreal. It connects private and industrial as being at home can be depicted from the room but then this gets disturbed by the locomotive. The way it connects the everyday and the surreal is the way that the room is arranged as there is a fireplace and a mirror but the surrealism hits as the locomotive goes stabbing through the fireplace



Time Transfixed by Rene Magritte



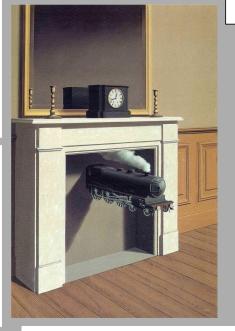
Movement is a formal quality seen in this artwork but only in the locomotive as its throwing steam into the air. Making the viewer think that the locomotive is stabbing through the fireplace

When looking at Time Transfixed by Rene Magritte, you can see some formal qualities such as **form**. You can see the use of **form** in the work as the locomotive is stabbed through the fireplace. This sign of form is interpreted as a sign of this being a surrealist painting as this can't happen in real life

The use of **texture** is also something able to be seen in Time Transfixed. Different **textures** of smoothness can be seen in the work. Some examples can be the wooden floor as it has the textures of being wood while the locomotive though the fireplace has more of a hard and solid **texture** to make it look as its metal.

**Space** can also be portrayed in this artwork as Rene Magritte used space in his work. He decided to create this artwork in a open room. You can see from the mirror on the back of the clock that the room is a pretty simple room with not as much furniture or things around the room.

## **Formal Qualities**



The use of **Light** is also seen in this artwork as the painting uses light from the room to create shadows. The point of view that created Rene Magritte was where the light was in the middle of the room we just can't see it. We can assume this due to the shadows created by the different object in the painting.

Color is another formal quality in *TIme Transfixed* by Rene Magritte. Different colors such as brown and black as well as different tones of brown for different pieces of wall and floor shown in the artwork. The use of the color black is only used on objects that are around the middle of the canvas such as the clock and the locomotive. This might have a meaning as both of these objects have a mechanism that lets them move such as a locomotive is used for travel and the clock has an hour and minute hand which moves.

#### Compare Artwork #1 & #2 Function/Purpose, Culture, Formal Qualities

#### **Culture**

Some things that are the same in both artworks are, the symbolism that each of the paintings can convey. You can see that The Last Supper conveys a catholic or Christian belief as for The Son of man can convey the same belief used in the green apple in the middle of the painting. This can be referred as the forbidden apple. The Last Supper can all be a symbolism of Catholicism and Christianity.



#### **Function and Purpose**

Although both artworks come from different backgrounds such as The Last Supper being located in a church and The Son of Man being a self portrait, these two pieces of art have some similar purposes. One of those purposes is to just admire the work and what is going on around the paintings. In The Last Supper, you can see how Jesus tells the apostles that one of them will betray him. Then you can see how each apostle has a different expression by the way Leonardo Da Vinci created there faces and body gestures. For The Son of Man, you can observe how this is a self portrait of Rene Magritte, but it has his touch of surrealism in the painting. According to wikipedia, surrealism is Surrealism is a cultural movement that developed in Europe in the aftermath of World War I in which artists depicted unnerving, illogical scenes and developed techniques to allow the unconscious mind to express itself.



#### **Formal Qualities**

One of the mediums used in both artworks can be the medium of painting. This consist of applying paint or other medium to something solid.

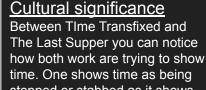
Some other formal qualities seen in both works of art are, the use of depth. When looking at The Last Supper, you can see the depth in the painting. Depth is used in The Last Supper to make this artwork seem more realistic, adding a three dimensional look to it. The way depth is used in The Son of Man is by making the character appear to be in front of the sea, also creating that three dimensional look.

Apart from the medium and the depth used in both artworks, you can also see the use of light in them. The used of light portrayed in The Last Supper makes us focus more of the middle of the painting. This is because there is shades at the sides of the painting therefore giving the artwork more emphasis on the middle where Jesus appears. For The Son of Man, light is used by using cool and light color, then contrasting them with the green apple and the red tie that the character(Rene Magritte) is using.

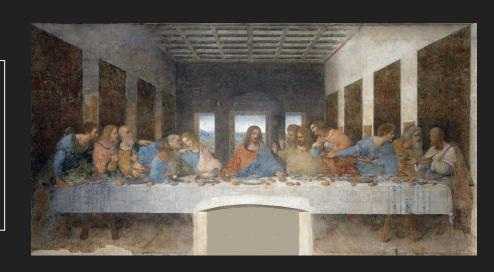
#### Compare Artwork #1 & #3 Function/Purpose, Culture, Formal Qualities

#### **Function and Purpose**

Both artworks are meant show the viewers things such a s verse in the Bible or how surrealism should be shown.



time. One shows time as being stopped or stabbed as it shows in TIme Transfixed and the other one shows what happened in a certain event.





Some similar formal qualities are the use of color in the paintings. In Time Transfixed you can see the use of color as there are different shades of brown being used just like in The Last Supper. Different shades of brown are being used in the room as well as in some clothing of the apostles. Another similar formal quality is the use of lines. The Last Supper used lines to create different ground in the painting such as background foreground. Rene Magritte uses line to create different textures in his work Time Transfixed as he uses lines to create texture for the wood on the floor and designs for the wall of the room.



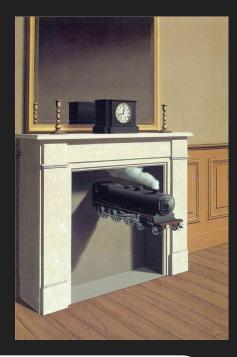


# Compare Artwork #2 & #3 Function/Purpose, Culture, Formal Qualities

Both of these artworks were created by the same artist who was Rene Magritte. Both works have surrealism culture inside the artwork. For The Son of Man, surrealism can be shown as the green apple is floating right in front of the character who is Rene Magritte. For Time Transfixed it's the way the Locomotive is stabbing through the fireplace. These two things show surrealism as they cant happen in real life but are tied to a painting that shows real life concepts.

#### Purpose

When looking at The Son of Man and Time Transfixed, you can see that the purpose was to just be able to observe and admire the work. Rene Magritte said that the son of man really did not have a purpose. Both artworks can be analyzed and once you pay attention to each of them you might be able to find things that seem strange sch as a twisted arm in The Son of Man and a locomotive going through a fireplace in Time Transfixed



#### Formal Qualities

Some formal qualities that both artworks have are, the use of line, color and texture. In The Son of Man, you can see the use of line in the background of the painting as a line is seen that separates the sky, the ocean and the stone fence. You can see how Rene Magritte uses line to divide and create different objects in Time transfixed such as the mirror and the clock. Lines are also used to create texture for the floor and to create details in the wall and fireplace. Rene Magritte also uses color in both paintings as in The Son of Man you can interpret the mood of a gloomy day due to the use of cool colors making the sky look as if it was going to rain. You can also see the use of color in The Castle of the Pyrenees as there is contrast of colors between the light blue sky and the dark ocean. The use of texture is also shown in both artworks as each piece or item in each painting has its corresponding texture. For example the green apple in the son of man has that smooth looking texture and the floating rock in the Castle of the Pyrenees has that rough texture.

#### Contrast Artwork #1 & #2 Function/Purpose, Culture, Formal Qualities

#### **Formal Qualities**

Although they both have some similar formal qualities, they are used in different ways, for example in The Last Supper by Leonardo Da Vinci. The use of depth in this painting makes the artwork look as if its a three dimensional work, adding space into the work. Whereas in The Son of Man by Rene Magritte, depth is used to show the background. Another different formal quality that these works have is the use space. In The Last supper, the use of space is seen by spreading out the apostles in the painting, making the viewers eyes move into different places in the artwork. In The Son of Man, she use of space is different form The Last Supper as the character is in the middle of the painting, making the viewer focus on the character more than on the background around it.





#### Function/Purpose

These two artworks can serve totally different functions such as the Son of Man was a self portrait while the Last Supper is established in a church to reflect something from the bible. The Son of Man is a self portrait as it was a painting of Rene Magritte. The purpose of The Last Supper is to portray a verse in the Bible, Matthew 26; 21-26 which talks about how one of Jesus apostles would betray him. This painting was then created in a church called Maria delle Grazie located in Italy.

#### Culture

When looking at the works of art, you can tell that The Last Supper connects to catholic culture as its a picture of Jesus and his apostles. In The Son of Man, you can see surrealism culture as there is a floating apple in front of Rene Magritte who is the character in the painting. This is what makes the painting part of surrealism culture as there is something that could never happen in real life but yet connects to something from real life.



#### Contrast Artwork #1 & #3 Function/Purpose, Culture, Formal Qualities

#### **Formal Qualities**

Some different formal qualities that these artworks have is the use of **color**. The Last Supper uses different cool colors such as different shades of blue and warm colors in the clothing of Jesus and his apostles. MEanwhile Time Transfixed uses only different shades of brown and black to highlight important things in the painting such as the locomotive and the clock. Another different formal quality is the use of space. In The Last Supper Leonardo Da Vinci uses all the **space** and this allows him to give the apostles different hand expressions and shows us how every apostle was reacting. In Time Transfixed Rene Magritte made use of the space but you can see from the mirror behind the clock that that room looks empty without motion apart from the steaming locomotive that stabs through the fireplace.

#### Function/Purpose

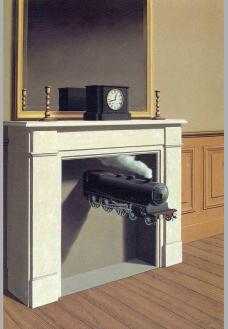
Both artworks are not entirely connected as one was meant to be a painting given to his patron and the other was a painting to show the betrayal that Jesus once faced. Time transfixed was created to give to Edward James who was Rene Magrittes patron and The Last Supper shows how Jesus was telling his apostles than one of them would betray him and they all start wondering who would do that.

#### Culture

When looking at these two art pieces you can see the difference on culture as one involves christianity and the other one involves surrealism culture. Time Transfixed involves surrealism as a locomotive is stabbing through a fireplace.







# Contrast Artwork #2 & #3 Function/Purpose, Culture, Formal Qualities

#### **Function/Purpose**

Coming from the same Artist, they both serve different functions and purposes. These being that *The Son of Man* was a self portrait of Rene Magritte and *Time Transfixed* was a painting given to Rene Magritte's patron Edward James to display by his stairs as the artwork would "stab" guest going up the stairs. But ironically he placed the painting above his fireplace.

#### **Culture**

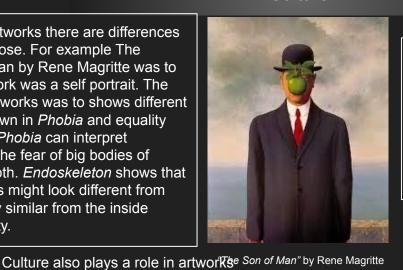
Both of the artworks have different cultural significance as one was meant to only show surrealism as Time Transfixed has a locomotive stabbed through a fireplace. Rene Magritte's The Son of Man can be a form of trying to show that there is more to things than what the eye can see as a way to show your values. This can be seen as the closer you look at the painting the more unusual things you are able to see

#### **Formal Qualities**

Rene Magritte uses Different colors in The Son of Man to try and get the viewers attention such as the green apple that is in front of the persons face. This is not the same in Time Transfixed as Time Transfixed uses only different shades of brown and different shade of white and black. Another formal quality that is different is the use of space. In Time transfixed most of the important details are in one side of the painting while in The Son of Man the painting is more centered as the man is centered.

### Compare and contrast Function and purpose and Culture

When looking at these artworks there are differences in their function and purpose. For example The purpose of The Son of Man by Rene Magritte was to show himself as his artwork was a self portrait. The purpose of both of my artworks was to shows different emotions as phobias shown in Phobia and equality shown in Endoskeleton. Phobia can interpret thalassophobia which is the fear of big bodies of water as well as their depth. Endoskeleton shows that although objects or things might look different from the outside, they are very similar from the inside therefore showing equality.



Some differences in the function and purpose of these works is that Rene Magritte's work is a self portrait while my works are different things to shows different emotions. The Son of Man has the purpose of being a self portrait of Rene Magritte with a touch of his well known art style surrealism. My works are meant to show phobias and equality as feelings that we have



"Endoskeleton" By Isaac Hernandez

and these three artworks can connect to surrealism culture as Rene Magritte and myself have implemented surrealism culture into our works. He implemented surrealism by creating a floating apple in his work. In both of my works I used surrealism by creating a giant sea monster in Phobia and making a bird half skeleton and half its body is still covered in feathers in Endoskeleton. These three artworks show surrealism in their own wavs

Although all three artworks show surrealism, they all have different ways to show surrealism and the way they use the surrealism is different as in my works I used surrealism to show different emotions rene magritte used surrealism to hide his face which is quite disturbing as his art piece is supposed to be a self portrait.



"Phobia" By Isaac Hernandez

### Comparison

# Compare and contrast Function and purpose and Culture

Contrast

Even though these works of art are completely different one can see how they are connected to certain beliefs. One of these beliefs is christianity and the other is beliefs of equality and facing fears. This can be seen in Endoskeleton and Phobia as the character in Phobia is in the middle of the sea where there is a giant sea monster lurking below him



When looking at The Last Supper by Leonardo Da Vinci and my work you can see differences in culture as The Last supper has to do with Christianity as Da Vinci's work portrays a verse in the bible Matthew 26:21-23, which talks about when Jesus tells his apostles that one of them will betray him and they start wondering who will betray Jesus. Meanwhile my works shows surrealism culture as both works have things that are not realistic but yet seem as if they would happen.



"Endoskeleton" By Isaac Hernandez

Although Leonardo Da Vinci's work portrays a verse in the Bible and My works *Phobia* and *Endoskeleton* show surrealism. All of the three works try to show different human emotions. The name of my work *Phobia* speaks for itself as its about thalassophobia. For *Endoskeleton* it conveys the human emotion of being equal to each other and *The Last Supper* portrays the emotions of betrayal and curiosity.



The Function and purpose of the three artworks could be considered different as Da Vinci wanted to interpret an important event from the Bible. In my works I was trying to implement surrealism as well as trying to connect my works to human emotions such as phobias and equality. Both my artworks were meant with the intention of having the same function and purpose unlike *The Last Supper* which portrays the betrayal of on of Jesus apostles.



"Phobia" By Isaac Hernandez

These three artworks have similarities as they follow the surrealism culture. All three artworks have somethings that makes them be a surrealism artwork. Time Transfixed has a Locomotive being stabbed through a fireplace, Phobia has a giant sea monster and Endoskeleton has a bird that is half alive and the other half is its skeleton. All these things show the connection to surrealism art.



Magritte

Some differences in culture are the beliefs that where put into the paintings. For example in phobia there is a belief of trying to conquer your fears whereas in Time Transfixed there is not an actual belief connected to the work as Rene Magritte only created this work for his patron **Edward James** 



"Endoskeleton" By Isaac Hernandez

All these three artworks have somewhat the same function and purpose which was to show the viewers surrealism. Another purpose that the artworks have was to be displayed. Time Transfixed was displayed in Edward James home until he later sold the piece and my works are displayed throughout my high school.

Some different purposes between "Time Transfixed" By Rene Time Transfixed, Phobia and Endoskeleton are the way the works are displayed. Rene Magritte's function was to try and "stab" guest from Edward James as they looked at the picture while my works function was to show different feelings we humans have.



"Phobia" By Isaac Hernandez

Some formal qualities that are similar in my work and Da Vinci's work is the use of **color**. In my artwork *Phobia* I used most cool colors to create the ocean. Leonardo Da Vinci used cool colors as well in the clothing of Jesus apostles. He also implements some warm colors on Jesus as a way to make him stand out in the middle of the painting. I did the same as I used red in the character in the middle of the ocean

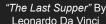


The Last Supper uses space. You can clearly see how Da Vinci uses all the space available which helps create depth. Unlike my work Endoskeleton, I only use the middle of the canvas as this makes the viewer focus. This is also different in Phobia as there is not as the use of space is different than The Last Supper as I do use all the space but some part feel empty.



"Endoskeleton" By Isaac Hernandez

The use of *lines* is also used in all three artworks as *The Last Supper* uses lines to create the background, foreground and middle ground. In *Endoskeleton* there is only the foreground and in *Phobia* there is background and middleground. This is created by the use of lines which also help separate the different grounds.



The other difference in formal qualities is **color**. Although *Phobia* does have similarities with *The Last Supper, Endoskeleton* does not. My artwork is in black and white with some shades of gray while *The Last Supper* has a variety of colors such as different shades of blue and some warm colors.



"Phobia" By Isaac Hernandez



"Time Transfixed" By Rene Magritte



"Endoskeleton" By Isaac Hernandez

## Compare and Contrast Formal Qualities in Artworks of Rene Magritte and My work

Contrast

The formal qualities in these four artwork vary from being the same and having some differences. Some formal qualities are the use of color in The Son of Man and Phobias. Both have bodies of water in the artwork and both use different shades of blue a long with black. Something else that is similar is the use of space as The Son of Man and Phobia are centered.

Comparison

In Time Transfixed and in Endoskeleton there is a similarity if not using any bright or warm colors. Endoskeleton is in black and white and Time Transfixed follows a similar format as it only uses different shades of brown, some white and some black.

Some differences in formal qualities from my work and Rene Magritte's work are the use f color in The Son of Man and Endoskeleton is very different. The son of Man uses different colors such as cool colors like blue and grey and warm colors like red. In my work Endoskeleton I don't really use colors apart from white and black.



"The Son of Man" by Rene Magritte

Another thing that is different is the use of lines. You can see the use of lines in The Son of Man to form the background,, midground and the front of the painting. In Endoskeleton there is ont one way to view my work as it's just one object without any background. Therefore my work does not use any line to establish different section on the work.



"Phobia" By Isaac Hernandez