

## AH 384 SECOND WRITING ASSIGNMENT ON GENRE PAINTING

For this 3 PAGE, DOUBLE-SPACED paper, select a painting from Pohl's books or consult an artist's monograph, general survey text, catalogue raisonne, exhibition catalogue, or online source from a museum (e.g., the Metropolitan or Smithsonian). The object MUST be a 19th-century American GENRE PAINTING (or print) with figural elements and a focus on some aspect of EVERYDAY American life, preferably by one of the artists we have studied since the midterm. The ideal date of the work should be between 1840-1895.

Do NOT choose an object from your slide list--or one I analyze at length in class. Good candidates include Mount, Bingham, Guy, Spencer, Johnson, Homer, and Eakins. You may select a different artist, but you MUST check with me first so I can tell you if you are likely to find sufficient info or other objects by this artist. (It can be very frustrating for you if you choose an obscure artist and I recommend you contact me anyway with your choice). If you select an object you see firsthand--e.g., at the Henry, Frye, SAM, or a local dealer like Martin-Zambito or the Kollar Gallery, you will once again receive extra points.

As with the first paper, do NOT go into detail about the artist's biography unless you have some absolutely important or specific point--e.g., to link his/her Civil War or life experiences with the subject of the painting in question. For this paper you will do some outside research, so FOOTNOTE accordingly. Remember, if in doubt, FOOTNOTE--including online sources! Do NOT over-rely on the Internet; use REAL books and articles, since some of the material available on the Internet (beyond basic data) is inaccurate and unreliable. You may email me for suggestions on bibliography if you have trouble locating pertinent materials, but do NOT wait until the last minute!

In the first 2-3 paragraphs, once again provide a SHORT VISUAL ANALYSIS, both an "objective" description of WHAT you see and of the formal elements (color, line, shape, handling of space, etc.) in the composition. THEN and only then move on to the more subjective, longer task of projecting possible meaning/s and mood generated by this image. Indicate whether the subject is typical of this artist and the period when it was produced. Also address whether the subject reflects particular social, historical, cultural, or other attitudes of the period. Your "reading" and opinion are welcome, so do express your own interpretation.

The interpretive sections are VITAL to this assignment, which blends close examination and some research (maybe 2-3 hours). Think carefully about whether your object lends itself to discussion of how the "everyday" in American life manifests itself

in some recognizable pattern or category. Possible themes along these lines include (but are not limited to) representations of childhood, motherhood, social and gendered roles, ethnic or racial stereotyping, city or country life/activities, recreation, leisure, work or workers, the home and domesticity, or politics, any of which can generate interesting commentary.

**REMEMBER TO ATTACH IMAGE AND WRITING RUBRIC TO YOUR PAPER!**