

The Stone Breakers (1849)

By: Gustave Courbet (French Artist)

Medium: Oil on Canvas

Size: 5'5" x 8'5"



Form of the Work

Throughout the piece there seems to be a lack of color. The dullness shows the shading of least importance while the lighter areas really shifts your eyes towards the workers. You can see a lot of lines that are curved instead of straightened.

Function of the Work

The function of the work is to show the average life of a French worker. To show social classes in France.

Content of the Work

Gustave tried to show social realism in his artwork. There is no real symbolism but is just supposed to be nice artwork.

Context of the Work

There is really no symbolism in the artwork. There is a statement that shows every day French workers.

The way Gustave painted the picture was with rough paint strokes to show the rigidity of working.

In the picture it depicts two men working hard to make a road in the countryside.

The man on the left appears to be younger while the man on the right is older. This depicts that all ages worked hard.

This painting took place the French town of Ornans. Gustave's hometown.