

Art Criticism

- What is it?

Art criticism is a systematic discussion of an artwork usually involving four stages.

Types? Purpose?

- Types:
 - Professional
 - Movies, music, art, theater
 - Nonprofessional
 - You or I
- Purpose:
 - Good training
 - Make selections, discover new things, explore unfamiliar art, develop your own taste
 - Organize your knowledge so you can share it with others
 - Generates ideas for discussion and speculation

Art Criticism

4 MAIN STEPS

- Description
- Analysis
- Interpretation
- Judgment

DESCRIPTION: “State what you see”

1. Label Information

1. *Title of work and artist’s name*
2. *When and where artwork was created*
3. *Medium*

2. Subject Matter

1. *Recognizable images such as people, trees*
2. *Only state the obvious – make no assumptions*

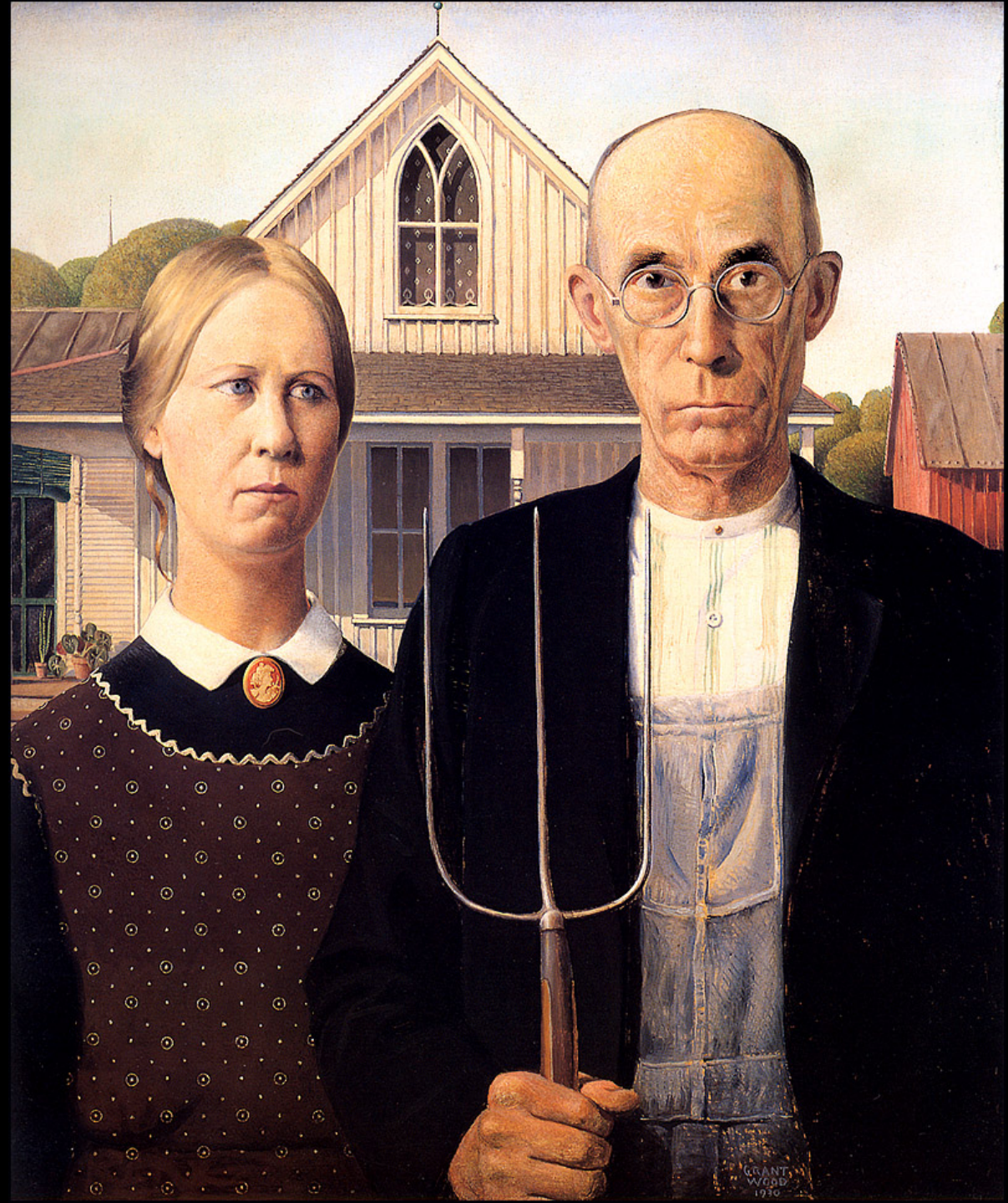
3. Art Elements

- Choose the main ones shown in the image and STATE HOW THEY ARE USED

1. *Line*
2. *Shape*
3. *Space*

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1930, Modernism

**Practice the
DESCRIPTION
phase using this
painting and the
information
provided**



ANALYSIS:

“How is the work organized?”

1. Similarities

1. *Similar lines? Shapes? Colors?*

2. Contrasts

1. *Contrasts in color? Shape? Form? Texture?*

3. Continuities

1. *Directional flow? Repeated elements?*

4. Dominance

1. *What appears to be the most important?*

5. Balance

1. *What is the balance shown here?*
2. *What contributes to that balance?*

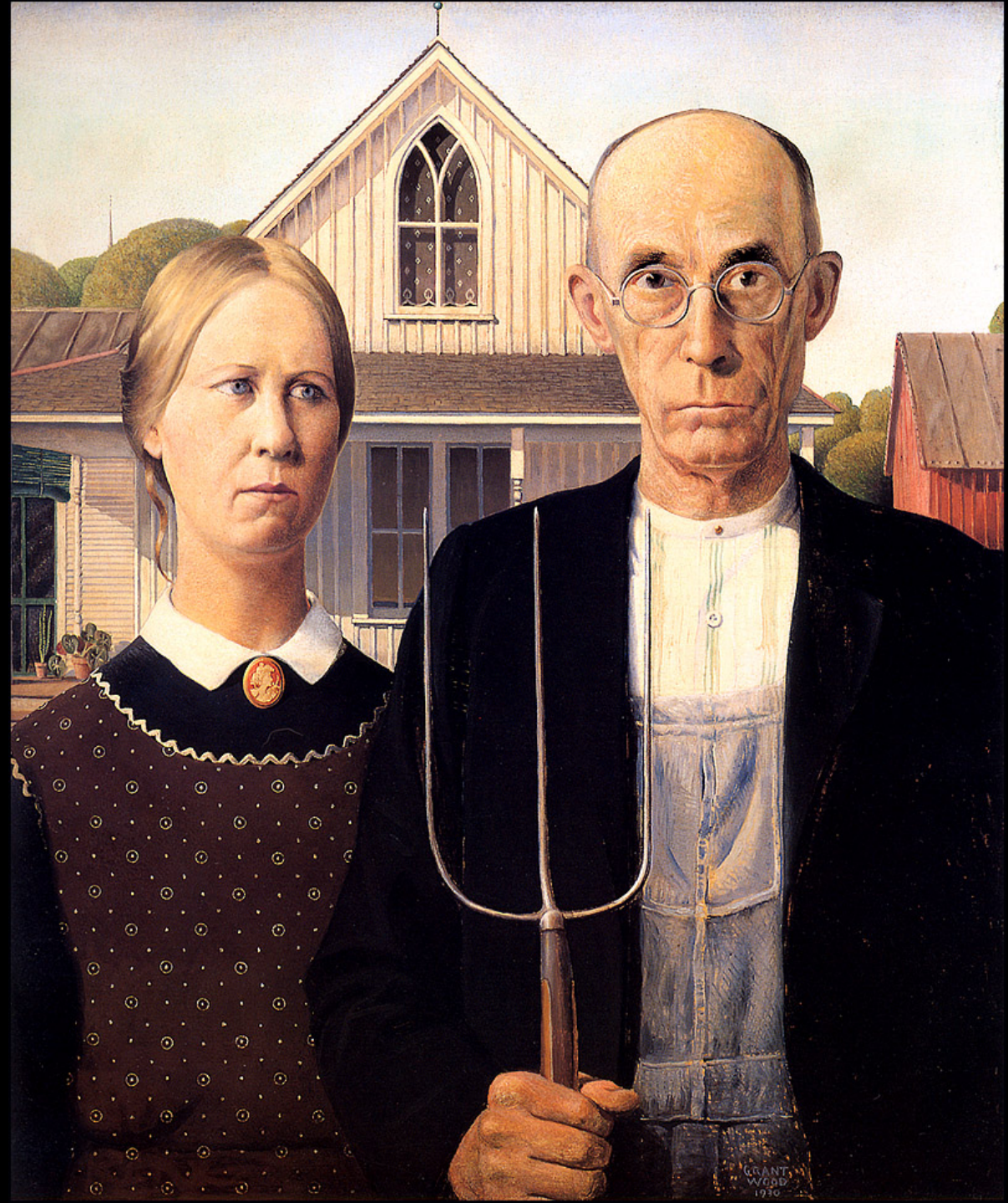
6. Relationships

1. *What is the relationship between the theme and subject matter of the art?*
2. *Why choose that medium to convey this subject?*

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ANALYSIS**

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INTERPRETATION: “What is the artist saying?”

1. Use the information from your description and analysis stage to help you identify the content of the work

2. Hypothesis

1. An assumption or informed guess about the meaning of the work

3. Defense

1. Defend your hypothesis with

1. ...evidence from description and analysis

2. ...other sources such as art history

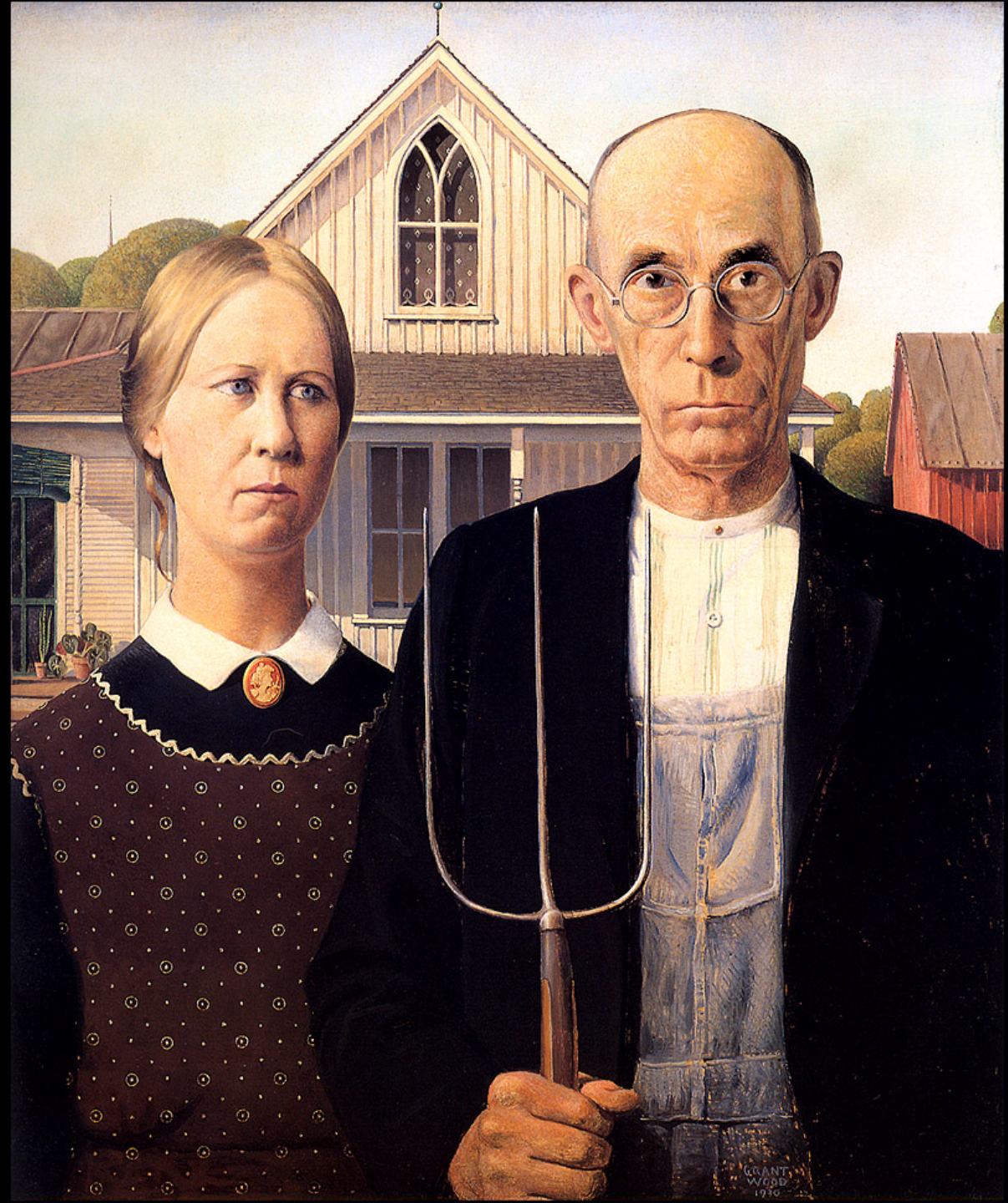
3. ...past presumed purposes

4. ...past experiences

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INTERPRETATION**

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JUDGMENT/EVALUTATION:

“Is this a successful work of art?”

Based on your analysis in the first 3 stages, what is your judgment of the quality of success of the work? Judgment may be affected by the following...

- 1.Craftsmanship** – *Degree of skill in media and procedures*
- 2.Design Quality** – *degree of visual organization of the work*
- 3.Expressiveness** – *emotive qualities*
- 4.Personal Response** - *The extent at which the artwork evokes a response*
- 5.Originality** - *uniqueness of the artwork*
- 6.Comparison** - *How does artwork compare to those similar?*

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