

DLD College - World Art Day – My Favourite Work of Art

Iseult – Year 13 Student



'The Bathers at Asnieres' by Georges Seurat oil on canvas, 1884 Dimensions: 2m x 3m

'The Bathers at Asnieres' was painted when Seurat was only 24. It was his first major canvas and was 2 metres high x 3 metres wide. It was first exhibited in 1884 at the 'Groupe des Artistes Independent'. There is a real sense of calm and gentle light coming from this picture. It is a painting of working men having a day off from working in the factory and having a swim in the river. There are many factory chimneys in the background, one with smoke that seems to dissolve into the air. One man is wearing a vest, others are sitting on their piles of clothes. Their bodies are white, as though they haven't been in the sun much. The boy sitting by the water has an arched, tired back. The figures are very three dimensional because of the soft shadows. The whole picture has a soft light to it. The shadows on the skin are made from pale pinks, purples, blues, orange smudges and dots. The water is yellow, blue, green, red, and white layered marks. The grass is not only one green, as it has darker green dots on top of blues, reds, and yellows. Although the technique was very new, this painting is very accessible and easy to look at. It also creates a beautiful and sensitive image of an ordinary scene, not depicted before.