

Exploring the Art of L.S. Lowry

Learning objective: To identify key features of L.S. Lowry's artistic style, including his subject matter, colour palette, and unique painting techniques.

Study these flashcards to learn about the famous Northern English artist, L.S. Lowry. Use them to test your knowledge of his style and techniques.

Who was L.S. Lowry?

An English artist famous for painting scenes of industrial life in Northern England during the 20th century.

What are 'Matchstick Men'?

The nickname given to the thin, simple figures Lowry painted to represent the busy crowds of people in his scenes.

What kind of settings did Lowry usually paint?

Industrial landscapes, such as factories, terraced houses, tall chimneys, and busy streets.

What is a 'limited palette'?

Using only a small selection of colours in a painting, rather than every colour available. Lowry often used white, black, red, yellow, and blue.

How did Lowry paint the sky in many of his works?

He often painted the sky a dull, creamy-white or grey colour to show the smoke and smog from the factory chimneys.

Did Lowry paint from his imagination or from life?

He did both. He sketched things he saw in his local area and then used his imagination to compose the final scenes.

What is 'perspective' in Lowry's work?

The way he showed depth in his paintings, often making buildings look quite flat or tilted to create a unique view of the street.

What was the main mood or 'atmosphere' of his industrial paintings?

They often felt busy and bustling, but also quiet and reflective because of the muted colours he used.

What colour was the background usually painted before he added detail?

Lowry often started by painting the canvas white to make his later colours stand out more clearly.

Which city is Lowry most associated with?

Salford, in Greater Manchester, where he lived and worked for most of his life.

Why are Lowry's paintings important to history?

They provide a record of what life was like in industrial Northern England, showing how people lived and worked.

Max the monkey wonders: If a print of a Lowry painting costs £45, how much would 3 prints cost?

£135.