

## **Visual Analysis of Rodin's *The Thinker***

Many people believe that works of art are bound to be immortal. Indeed, some remarkable masterpieces have outlived their artists by many years, gaining more and more popularity with time. Among them is *The Thinker*, a brilliant sculpture made by Auguste Rodin, depicting a young, athletic man, immersed deep into his thoughts. *The Thinker* still keeps stirring genuine interest among people trying to figure out what riddle the stone man has been trying to solve for ages. However, it is not visual perfection achieved by the hand of the true genius that makes people love and cherish *The Thinker*. The secret of its success lies in people's passion for simple art.

### ***The Thinker* as a Masterpiece of Simplicity**

It might be taken for granted that artists in general are prone to pouring their heart and soul into their work. Some of them even try to send a message for the future generations to receive one day. Therefore, modern researches do their best to put the pieces of that puzzle together. As far as sculpture is concerned, it has been recently discovered that people tend to look at it like in the mirror (Albu, 2016.) Moreover, the reflection of one's personality may be considered as a proof of an artist's talent and skills. If a piece of art is capable of reflecting every person's individuality the same way *The Thinker* does, it is likely to flourish for centuries. It may be coming from the simplicity of form and color, giving spectators the chance of identifying themselves with a stone figure on a rock no matter how different in age, nationality, and gender they are. Apparently, it expresses their mutual aspiration for self-knowledge cut into the stone.

### **The Beauty of the Sculpture**

Admittedly, there is strong beauty in human body expressed with the help of its sharp and soft lines creating amazing proportions. There is no doubt that only an athlete could have posed for such a monument to humanity. Still, people keep seeing themselves in this

muscular figure, because it is not about brutal force. It is more about power of people's minds—their wisdom, imagination, and intelligence. One can even suspect convolutions of human brain in the curves of those muscles.

In fact, the visual image of this work of art inspires not only regular people, but also doctors. According to the recent studies, there is the so-called "The Thinker" position in medicine, which "involves bending the upper body forward and placing the elbow on the knee" (Takano & Sands, 2016). Unfortunately, this pose is not very comfortable, but the fact of mere presence of *The Thinker* on the pages of medical journals cannot but prove the iconic status of the sculpture.

### ***The Thinker as a Portrait of Every Person***

Since each and every person can imagine themselves sitting on a rock and leaning over, it would be of great interest to suggest ideas what exact reflections of themselves they see in *The Thinker*. On the one hand, it may be a young man suffering from unrequited love. His heart is throbbing violently, a loud howl of despair is going break forth. Suddenly, he tries to calm down and holds his forehead in order not to jump up and burst out crying. At this very moment, his muscles are in tension, and the whole body is not going to tremble for he is strong-willed. This is a picture of a young boy turning into a grown-up man all at once.

Another image is a tired person, trying to cope with all the twists and turns which life is constantly preparing for him. The person keeps thinking how to provide for the family, meet deadlines at work, and learn new things about the ever-changing world. The veins in their temple are pulsing because of weariness and tension they've experienced throughout the day. However, life seems to continue that way and it may get worse one day. There is only one possible way out, but to give in to that temptation costs a lot, that is why his thoughts become more and more grim. There is an idea that active managers are close to Rodin's *The*

*Thinker* (Bryce, 2017). Hopefully, there are not so many people in such a depression to see a man on the verge of the suicide in the sculpture.

Nevertheless, not only gloomy images can be observed in this unique sculpture. In addition, it might be that of Solomon, trying to reveal the world's mysteries in order to cure all the illnesses or fight injustice once and for all. Moreover, an unresolved enigma does no harm to his pride. The leaning posture only shows the feeling of relaxation he experiences while thinking about the expanding universe, deep chasms in the ocean floor, and bright rays of the sun. In fact, this can serve as a good illustration of changing perception from negative into positive depending on the spectator who contemplates the work of art.

### **The Future Generation in Front of *The Thinker***

As far young people are considered, one can never forget how extraordinary their ways of perceiving visual art may be. It might be of great surprise, that the simplicity of this sculpture has made it an object to train 3d printing (Hurt et al., 2019). Nowadays, young people do not longer need to visit museums to see pieces of art. It is of great interest that they can print it at home or even at school to watch another story inside the stone. However, not many sculptures can be printed that way as they abound in sophisticated details. The peculiarity of *The Thinker* lies in the solid character of its shape giving possibility to make copies with modern tools without being an artist.

In conclusion, timeless art is not about complicated details that people cannot copy. *The Thinker* serves as a proper illustration of art, simple in form, but deeply humanistic in character, telling people about their personality, thoughts, and dreams. The beauty of this sculpture lies in its multipurpose nature, giving rise to imagination of people belonging to different social and professional groups as they all can identify themselves with it.

## References

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