

1. IDENTIFICATION: (Artist, title, date, size, country of origin, period/style)

048. CATACOMB OF PRISCILLA- ORANT AND GOOD SHEPHERD FRESCOES

Late Antique Europe, Rome, Italy
c. 200-400 CE

2. FORM: (use of design elements/ principles: color, shape, value, texture, line, space; balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, etc.)

Orant: figure with raised arms and open hands, wearing red, other figure's gazes direct the viewer to the figure

Shepherd: youthful (beardless) image of Christ, 3 sheep move the eye to him, 2 trees with doves, symmetrical

3. MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUE: (art making processes)

Excavated tufa (volcanic rock) and fresco

4. CONTENT: (subject & genre: iconography, symbolism, the story)

Orant: praying to God, facing heaven, could represent the soul of the deceased, red symbolizes martyrdom

Good Shepherd: sheep symbolize Christ's followers, 3 the Trinity, and doves peace

Means Christ will lead his followers to salvation



5. ORIGINAL CONTEXT/ SITE/ INTENDED FUNCTION OF THE WORK: (Overlap to #6)

At the Catacomb of Priscilla
Decorated the walls, Orant on the top of an arched side and the Good Shepherd in the center ceiling

6. INTENDED PURPOSE & MOTIVATION (why was it made?); **PATRON/AUDIENCE** (who was it made for?); **ARTIST'S DECISION MAKING:**

Religious artwork of practices and Biblical figures & scenes for Christian tombs

Represent that the deceased soul is saved

7. INNOVATION/ CHANGE(S):

Different iconography, emergence of Christianity

CONVENTION/ TRADITION(S):

Contrapposto, like earlier Roman paintings, use of many symbols

8. THEME(S):

Burial/Funerary, Religious

COMPARE TO ANOTHER WORK:

Like the Egyptian Book of the Dead, many religious images are pictured and both were done when someone died. However, their views on the afterlife vary as well as their practices and stories.