

1. ARTIST: (Biographical information, training, style/ period, where lived/ created art, influences)

JOSEPH WRIGHT OF DERBY (1734 - 1797)

- Unofficial artist of the Enlightenment
- Also pursued science as part of the Lunar Society in Birmingham (Erasmus, Darwin)
- Most of career was outside London (unrestricted)
- Caravaggio/Baroque influence

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

Chiaroscuro (trademark); candle lit subjects; scientists and philosophers in places usually reserved for biblical and mythical figures, showing science not in a technically correct way but an idealized way to show that it will drive society forward

3. MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES: (art making processes)

Oil on canvas

4. TITLE(S) OF MAJOR WORK(S):

Science Exhibitions:

An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump (1768)
The Alchemist in Search of the Philosopher's Stone (1771)

Landscapes:

Grotto in the Gulf of Salerno (1774)
Dovedale by Moonlight (1784)



5. TITLE/ FORM/ ORIGINAL CONTEXT/ SITE/ INTENDED FUNCTION OF FOCUS WORK (IMAGE IN CENTER): (Overlap to #6)

100. A Philosopher Giving a Lecture on the Orrery (c.1763-1765)

Orrery - a scientific model of the universe with a lamp in the center representing the sun

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

Showed the ideal during the Age of Enlightenment that observation based on science will advance society by using a diverse audience in awe and studying the orrery
Gas lamp - light source & symbol of enlightenment

7. INNOVATION/ CHANGE(S):

Scientists & philosophers in place of religious figures, new standing in society/progress

CONVENTION/ TRADITION(S):

Use of chiaroscuro, scene like a Baroque painting

8. THEME(S):

Enlightenment

COMPARE TO ANOTHER WORK:

Like *the Calling of St. Matthew* by Caravaggio, this painting employs chiaroscuro to add dramatic lighting. However, this piece has scientists in place of saints and Jesus. This highlights the growing importance of science and secularization of society.