

Sample 1:

Imagine yourself inside the painting: Another approach is to imagine that you are the person in the painting (or one of the people) and write your poem from the point of view of the person in the painting speaking out to the world. Again, start by taking some notes and jotting down your observations. Read the description of the poem. What year was it painted? What is the artistic style? Modernist? Impressionist? Surrealist? Write notes in your notebook. Then consider the colors in the painting. Are they primary colors? Blended? What does the painting's pallet reveal about tone and mood? Take some more notes.

Séance, 1948

Stephen Hopkins Hensel (1921-1979)

I see you.
I see within you
Around you
Beyond you.

My hazel eyes
Circle round and round
Like spirals, vortexes,
Into the Beyond.

My peacock shawl,
My red-striped scarf,
Are not simply apparel,
Nor coverings for warmth...

No, they are interstellar
Highways into the Spirit World.
The blue comb atop my head
Holds it all in.

One single stray curl
Adorns my forehead—
It is but a foil,
A distraction

Protecting my third eye,
The one you do not see,
But which sees you,
Through you, around you.

My rosy cheeks,
My puckered lips,

My narrow knowing nose,
Are spiritual apparatus.

Vapors mist
Around my massive body,
Voluptuous, voluminous,
Solid, ethereal.

My feet are tiny,
The divine feminine.
My arms powerful,
Hands expressive, fingers flexible.

Those stars on my dress?
They are not patterning, no!
Each is a ghostly angel, a guide,
Whispering knowledge into my delicate ears,

Knowledge just for you,
For you alone, my dear.

By Laima Vince