ART 302
Narrative or Representation

A Narrative painting is one in which the artist is telling a story. We read paintings differently than a book but read them just the same.

Representation is the word we use to define artworks that look like something. If you have a painting of a horse, it’s said to be representative if it looks like a horse. We often use the word in contrast to abstraction. In the late 1900s Western artists were reacting against the representative nature of art since the Renaissance and, taking clues from Non-Western Art, began experimenting with abstraction. Here is your chance to paint something real…it’s a story.

Think of a story you want to tell, or think of new ways to imagine what it means to represent…re-present a subject. Or you may approach the meaning of narrative in a new way.

Many paintings are narratives and/or representations.