

Recognition: foreground and a confederate soldier with a

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Recognition: North and South (1865) Constant Mayer Constant Mayer's oil painting "Recognition: North and South" portrays a wounded Union soldier in the foreground and a Confederate soldier with a bandage on his head kneeling beside him with a concerned expression on his face. The Union soldier is lying against a rock with a tree stump, and in the background are trees and mountains.

Beside the soldiers is an old-fashioned rifle, indicating that the scene is taking place in the 19th century. Aerial perspective, shading, and overlapping create depth. There is texture in the clothing, the rocks, the foliage, the hair, and the skin. The colors primarily used are blue, grey, and green; and overall, they are bleak and unsaturated colors. There is implied line in the line of sight of the soldiers and the boundaries of objects. The piece achieves unity through the use of three main colors.

There is a variety of different textures used, such as cloth, foliage, rock, and skin. The focal point of the painting is the Union soldier, as it is located at the center of the picture frame and the Confederate soldier's gaze is directed at him, meaning it has emphasis. Movement is created in the poses of the soldiers and the way that the Confederate soldier's hair is being blown by the wind. There is repetition of the colors green, blue, and grey and the textures of rocks and foliage. There is asymmetrical balance in the piece because the soldiers are positioned in the center. The scene depicts two soldiers from opposing sides, yet the Confederate soldier is clearly saddened by the death of the Union soldier. The Civil War was one of the bloodiest wars in American history, and at that time many of the soldiers had to face their own brothers in battle. The Confederate soldier is coming to terms with the fact <https://assignbuster.com/recognition-foreground-and-a-confederate-soldier-with-a/>

that he lost someone who he cared about because of the war, and even though he is supposed to be fighting against the Union soldiers, he casts this aside in a moment of grief.

There is a feeling of sadness to the painting - an event tragic enough to make a Confederate soldier mourn over a Union soldier. The message of the piece is that blood is thicker than water. The Confederate soldier and the Union soldier allowed themselves to split apart because of their political beliefs. Now, the Confederate soldier is beginning to realize that although his side may have won the battle, he lost something irreplaceable in the process.