**The Eyes of El Greco**

El Greco was a great painter. Born in 1541, El Greco developed 12

an unusual painting style. All the people in his paintings are long 24

and thin. This gives his paintings a strange beauty. Was El Greco’s 36

style a result of a problem with his eyesight? 45

People first suggested that El Greco’s style was nothing more 55

than a vision problem in 1913. Although healthy eyeballs are 65

round and shaped like basketballs, El Greco’s eyes were shaped 75

like footballs. The shape of El Greco’s eyes affected the way he 87

saw the world. Because of this, everything that he saw appeared 98

to be long and thin. This suggests that El Greco painted things 110

the way he actually saw them. 116

Many experts, though, reject this idea. They agree that El 126

Greco might have seen objects as long. But they believe he would 138

have known their actual shapes. He could have drawn them as 149

they really were if he wanted to. 156

To understand this argument, imagine that you are colorblind. 165

You see red as blue. Through your eyes, a ripe tomato appears 178

blue. But you know that tomatoes are really red. When you paint 190

one, you use red paint. In any case, art experts point out that, in 204

many cases, El Greco painted figures that looked normal. This 214

 suggests that El Greco used his unique style because he liked the 226

way it looked. 229