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Visual Analysis  
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Edward Hopper  
*Office at Night*  
1940

Edward Hopper put the viewer up high looking down in the quaint yet prestigious corner office. Can you capture more by being a guardian angel of sorts perched above looking down? Does this frozen moment of time represent a reflection of the very next calculated move? What are these two individuals doing in the *Office at Night*? Behind the modest wooden desk sits a blonde middle aged Caucasian man wearing a tan three piece suit with a neatly tied burgundy necktie and he's tending to some papers. Overlooking this man standing next to a filing cabinet is a pale faced voluptuous female wearing a royal blue skin tight tea length dress standing tall with her black pumps. Her face is docile with what appears to be a fresh application of red lipstick and it seems that her full lips are puckered as if she is ready for a kiss. At first glance there isn't much filing getting done and her eyes are fixed to the floor on a piece of paper that has fallen beside the desk partially out of view. Enough of the fallen paper is visible on the plain green office carpet. It is enough of the paper showing to indicate that it is an important document because she hasn't taken her eyes off of it. Perhaps it belongs in the stack of papers that are on the desk that could have been blown off from a breeze that originated from the open window. Their minds are attempting to prioritize their thoughts on which papers should be more important than others, as there is one stack of papers closest to the window that the telephone is being used as a paper weight to keep them put.

Why are these two individuals burning the midnight oil in the first place? Perhaps working late was going to be the only chance the secretary was going to have to get closer to her boss. Maybe she was going to take this opportunity to make an advance on her boss. If it wasn't when the paper fell to the floor, perhaps she wanted to see if she peaked his interest by seeing if he would glare at her back side as she waltzed back and forth from her desk across the room. Perhaps, he knew her plan. Is this his reason for leaving both the window and door open? In the painting it shows that every imaginable light in the office is on illuminating every corner of the room. The opened window allows people to see into the tiny room from outside the office. It also allows someone walking by on the street below or even an adjacent building to look in.

He definitely wasn't hiding that he was alone with her, in fact he made sure he was in plain view and kept everything professional. Although they are working after hours, he is not even willing to relax his necktie. Regardless of the intent of either one of them, the mood is far from normal or plain. It appears to be a deadly silence. But on this particular night for him the work at hand was getting all of his attention and he was all business and no play.