

Analysing Art



CONTENT Observing the subject matter...

- ❖ Does the work have a title? If so, what is it?
- ❖ What is the work about? Describe it.
- ❖ What is happening? What can you see?
- ❖ What is the theme of the work?
- ❖ Is it symbolic? Does it represent something? Are there any hidden meanings?

Landscape, Portrait, Sculpture, Photograph, Painting, Relief, 3D, 2D, Textiles, Digital Imagery, Illustration, Event, Message, Memory, Abstract, Fantasy, Surreal, Realistic, Figurative, Expressive

PROCESS How has the work been created?...

- ❖ Can you tell how the work has been made?
- ❖ What materials have been used to create it?
- ❖ What techniques have been used?

WHEN What time period was the work made?...

- ❖ Can you tell when the work has been made? If so, how? What Art Movement does it belong to?

RESEARCH How to find out more...

- ❖ Research a variety of secondary sources and collect comments, discussion points and quotes if you can.

INTERPRETATION Your thoughts on the meaning of the work...

- ❖ What do you think the artist is trying to communicate? Is there a message, if so what do you think it is?
- ❖ What do you think of the work? Do you like/dislike it? Do you think it is successful? What are your reasons?



FORM Looking for the formal elements...



- ❖ What is the size and shape of the work?
- ❖ What is the composition/layout? Does this impact how you view the work?
- ❖ What colours have been used and how are they organised? Do they create an atmosphere?
- ❖ What lines and mark making has the artist used, if any?
- ❖ What textures and surface qualities can you see?
- ❖ Are there any patterns or shapes of any significance?
- ❖ Do you notice any specific tonal areas in the artwork?
- ❖ If you can identify any of these formal elements, why do you think the artist has used them?

Bright, Vivid, Chaotic, Textured, Layered, Scale, Calm, Large, Small, Symmetrical, Balanced, Asymmetric, Tactile, Rough, Smooth, Decorative, Tone, Form, Light, Medium, Dark, Delicate, Strong

MOOD Message/Communication/Mood/Feelings...

- ❖ When you look at the work, how does it make you feel and why? Does it affect you in any way?
- ❖ Do any of the formal elements within the piece impact how you feel about it?
- ❖ How does the work engage you as a viewer?
- ❖ How does it capture a mood, emotion or feeling, and how?
- ❖ Does the work convey any feelings about nature/experience/life? Describe if this is the case?
- ❖ Is the work calm, chaotic?
- ❖ Has the artist used any techniques to convey a certain mood/atmosphere/feeling, if so, what?

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ALWAYS CHECK:
Your spelling,
punctuation and
grammar

FORMAL ELEMENTS:
Line, Tone, Shape, Form,
Pattern, Texture, Colour,
Space