

ART CRITICISM PROCESS

KEY INFORMATION (facts)

TITLE: _____

ARTIST: _____

DATE: _____

MEDIA: _____

LOCATION: _____

thumbnail sketch

DESCRIPTION:

Purely facts

Describe what you can see – what is the SUBJECT MATTER of the work

Describe where you see the elements of art used (line, shape, colour, value, form, texture, space)

Describe how you see the elements of art used

ANALYSIS:

Composition – how are the principles of art organizing the elements

Principles of art – balance, proportion, emphasis, pattern, variety, rhythm, movement, harmony

INTERPRETATION:

Discuss the content of the art in terms of the feelings, moods and ideas that the work generates

Look, listen, smell, feel, touch - the different aspects of the painting can make you interpret it using your senses – predict or guess what it would be like to be “in the painting”

JUDGEMENT:

Make a decision about the success or lack of success about an artwork

This decision (judgement) is based on one of three **AESTHETIC VIEWS** or **AESTHETIC THEORIES**

- 1) **Subject View aka “Imitationism”** – successful artwork has a subject that is easy to identify
- 2) **Composition View aka “Formalism”** – successful artwork uses the elements and principles of art to create a unified or organized artwork. Formal properties of art are the main concern.
- 3) **Content View aka “Emotionalism”** – successful artwork must effectively communicate an idea, mood or feeling to viewers.

You need to apply one of these views to make and back up your final judgment about the work.
The aesthetic theories defend your judgement statements!