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| **CRITICAL ART ANALYSIS GUIDE** |

# **RESEARCH:**

### Research the following:

* The **name** of the **work**.
* The **name** of the **artist**.
* **Date** of the **work**.
* **Media** and **Techniques** used.
* **Subject matter** (still life, portrait, figurative, landscape).
* **Style** (realistic, abstract, semi-abstract, representational, non-representational).
* **Context** (social, cultural, historical).
* **Art movement** (cubism, Pop Art, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism).
* Associate any **Positive** and **Negative** words to the work.

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| **Positive** | **Negatives** |
| Appealing, attractive, captivating, collaborative, dramatic, fundamental, idyllic, imperative, impressive, motivating, picturesque, quaint, satisfying, significant, stimulating, striking, thought-provoking, tranquil. | Abomination, condemn, confronting, crass, critical, dark, depressing, desolate, dim, dismal, distressing, disturbing, dull, flawed, gloomy, inadequate, insignificant, meek, oblivious, ominous, outrageous, shallow, taxing, unforgiving, unworthy, venerable. |

# **MAKE JUDGEMENT:**

### How well has the artist communicated the intended meaning?

* Explain this in your own opinion.

### The following are descriptive words **WHICH SHOULD** be used in formal critiquing of artwork:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **LINE** | **TEXTURE** | **TONE** | **SHAPE** | **FORM** | **COLOUR** | **SPACE** |
| Blurred  Bold  Broken  Controlled  Curved  Delicate  Diagonal  Expressive  Freehand  Heavy  Horizontal  Interrupted  Ruled  Short  Straight  Subtle  Thick  Thin  Vertical  Weighted  Wide | Actual  Bumpy  Coarse  Corrugated  Flat  Furry  Grainy  Gritty  Leathery  Prickly  Rough  Rustic  Sandy  Sensitive  Shiny  Simulated  Smooth  Soft  Sticky  Tacky  Velvet | Bold  Contrasting  Dark  Dim  Dramatic  Dreary  Dull  Even  Flat  High Key  Light  Low Key  Medium  Minimal  Muted  Pastel  Pale  Sensitive  Soft  Sombre  Subtle | Abstract  Balanced  Bold  Complex  Connected  Contour  Detached  Dynamic  Expressive  Flat  Flowing  Irregular  Jagged  Minimal  Open  Organic  Random  Realistic  Regular  Sensuous  Simplistic | Abstract  Authentic  Concrete  Depth  Detailed  Distorted  Exaggerated  Geometric  Hard Edge  Imaginable  Inventive  Natural  Obscure  Realistic  Sharp  Simplified  Soft Edge  Tangible  Whimsical | Artificial  Bright  Calm  Clashing  Clear  Compatible  Contrasting  Cool  Depressing  Dull  Earthy  Flat  Harmonious  Intense  Monochromatic  Multi-coloured  Natural  Rich  Saturated  Strong  Warm | Closed  Constrained  Deep  Enclosed  Flat  Immense  Infinite  Inhabited  Negative  Open  Positive  Shallow  Tight  Vast |

# DESCRIPTION:

### Describe what the artist has created including the following:

* Describe the subject matter.
* Outline the details of foreground, midground and background.
* Describe the content.

# ANALYSIS OF THE ART WORK:

### …how has the effect been created:

* Comment on the 7 **Elements of Art** (line, texture, tone, shape, form, colour and space).
* Comment on the **Principles of Design** (contrast, movement, space, balance, unity, selection, focal point, pattern, repetition).

# INTERPRETATION:

### What is the artwork about:

* The meaning.
* Describe how the Elements of Art have been used to contribute towards the meaning.
* Outline what the artist is trying to say; are there any cultural, social, historical issues dealt with in the work?

# BREAKDOWN & JUDGEMENT:

### …the comparing words with similarity and differences:

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| **Similarities** | **Differences** |
| Similar, both, likewise, like, at the same time, together, common, also, similarly, demonstrate, comparatively, furthermore, parallel, congruently | Contrast, alternatively, as opposed to, whereas, on the contrary, juxtaposed |

# HOW DOES THIS ARTWORK RELATE TO MY OWN ART WORK?

* What are the similarities/ differences?
* How have you used subject matter, approach, materials or techniques?  
  Are the similar or different?

Use this as a basic structure to any art analysis you may do, keep in mind that the length of your analysis may vary depending on your work requirement.  
**i.e. Your Visual Study might have a low word count.**