

# **Portfolio Preparation Midterm Project**

**Ms. Vigliani**



**Museum/Gallery  
Visit**

You will be required to visit one museum or gallery each semester and to write a short critique or an analysis of a work of art for each visit. Additional critiques will be regarded as extra credit.

When analyzing a work of art, be sure to describe what you see first, then explain how it was executed and finally offer suggestions for why it may have been done that way. This is the same process that is used to analyze literature. The following guidelines should help you to analyze a work of art.

**ALWAYS USE THE TITLE AS A CLUE TO INFORMATION.**

**DESCRIPTION 5 pts.**

**WHAT IS SHOWN?**

Identify the museum, title, artist, date and cultural group or general style of the piece

Inventory what you see (subject matter)

**ANALYSIS 3 pts. each for total 65 pts.**

**HOW DO THE ELEMENTS OF DESIGN FUNCTION IN THIS PIECE?**

Use the handouts Elements of Design and Analysis Format to describe how the work is organized

**INTERPRETATION WHAT DOES THE PIECE SUGGEST TO YOU? 20 pts.**

**RECORD THE IDEAS COMMUNICATED 10 pts.**

What human characteristics are shown and how? Do the artist's concerns voice those of his/her time or culture? What was the historical and cultural context of the work? (optional) What may the artist be trying to say?

**RECORD YOUR FEELINGS OR MOODS as you view the work 10 pts.**

What do you hear, smell, see, feel? are you comfortable when you place yourself within the work?

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALIZE THAT INTERPRETATIONS WILL DIFFER FROM PERSON TO PERSON, AND CAN BE ACCEPTED IF THEY ARE SUBSTANTIATED BY DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS FIRST**

**JUDGMENT 10 pts.**

**HOW SUCCESSFUL IS IT?**

Evaluate the descriptive, analytical and expressive qualities of the piece

**THIS PROJECT WILL SERVE AS THE MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAM**



## Art Analysis Format

### SPACE

- **OVERLAPPING** Do objects partly hide other objects? where?
- **LINEAR PERSPECTIVE** Is there 1 or 2 pt perspective ( lines that are parallel appearing to converge?) where?
- **DETAIL** Are closer objects more detailed? where?
- **SIZE** Are closer similar objects larger than those farther away? where?
- **POINT OF VIEW** Is viewer above, below or along level of the scene?
- **RECEDING COLOR (AERIAL PERSPECTIVE)** Do colors get dull as they go back in the picture? give an example.
- **PICTURE PLANE** Are objects closer up lower on the picture plane? Give an example

### SHAPE & FORM

- **FLAT OR VOLUMETRIC** Do objects appear as cut outs or as rounded and full? do you see shading? Give an example.
- **GEOMETRIC OR BIOMORPHIC** Are forms rounded and natural or do they appear man-made with ruler and compass? Give an example.
- **NEGATIVE OR POSITIVE** Are shapes seen by their insides or their surrounding areas outside? Give an example.
- **REALISTIC, ABSTRACT OR NON-OBJECTIVE**  
realistic refers to real world; abstract refers to simplified shapes from real world; non-objective has no reference. Give an example.

### LINE

- **EDGE BETWEEN WHAT?** Is it an edge between colors, forms or textures? Give an example.
- **QUALITIES OF LINE** Are lines short, straight, fuzzy, agitated, thick, curvy, whirling...?

### COLOR & VALUE

- **INTENSE OR DULL** Are colors full intensity or heavily mixed? Give an example.
- **VALUE** Is the painting full contrast, high key or low key? Give an example.
- **EMOTIONAL** What feeling do the colors convey, based on warm and cool color theory? Give an example.
- **COLOR SCHEME** Is there a color scheme used? If so, is it monochromatic, adjacent or complementary? describe.
- **SPOTLIGHT OR DIFFUSED** Is the light sharp and directed where you can see a source, or is it even and hard to define? Give an example.

### TEXTURE

- **BRUSHSTROKES ROUGH OR SMOOTH** Can you see the brushstrokes?
- **TEXTURES RECREATED IN PAINTING**  
Does artist paint illusion of real surfaces like velvet, glass, fur? Where?

