

Art Appreciation/Art History
Analyzing Art Activity

Instructions:

To review last week's material on prehistoric art and practice analyzing art go through each of the five steps to artistic analysis below, using the work of art provided.

You may work in groups or alone, but make sure to write down answers for each question on the list.



- **Assessment of Physical Properties:** *identify what you are looking at*
 - Note key features like medium, size, scale, etc.
- **Visual Analysis:** What visual features are most significant?
 - Principles of design/elements of art
 - Note key colors, shapes, line, texture, etc.
- **Identification of Subject Matter and Symbolism:** *What is depicted and what does it communicate?*
 - What is the meaning of the piece?
- **Connecting to Cultural Context:** *What does this work of art say about the time it was made?*
 - Who made the work?
 - How did they make it?
 - How does it relate to the artist's/artists' culture, politics, or history?
- **Connecting the Dots:** *How do the above work together to make the piece significant?*
 - What is the key takeaway from the piece?

Art History and Art Appreciation Gallery Activity

Spend today's class in the gallery space reviewing the material we've studied in class so far and searching for the various elements of design.

First, take a few moments to walk through the exhibition and look at each work of art before completing the activity below.

Next, work individually to complete the principles of design scavenger hunt. Each of the principles of art that we studied last week is listed below with a few follow up questions to test your understanding of how the elements of art are present in real art pieces.

Engage with the design principles by finding a work of art that you think *best* demonstrates each one. Try to use a different example for each design principle. Eventually, you may have to use an artwork more than once but attempt to use different ones before you return to any piece in the show.

Line

Which work of art in the gallery uses line most prominently? What type of line did the artist use in the work?

Shape & Form

Where is shape and form most evident? What is/are the main shape(s) used?

Color

List the piece that uses color most prominently. What color did you notice first?

Space & Depth

Which artwork has the most depth? What gives you a sense of space in the work?

Texture

Find the most textured work of art in the show. What texture is it?

Light & Shadow

Which work of art has the highest contrast between dark and light? Which emphasizes shadow?

Balance

Of the artworks on display, which is the most symmetrical? Which is the most asymmetrical?

Proportion & Scale

In what artwork is scale used most impactfully?

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Gallery Activity

Now that you've identified some of the principles of design in real works of art, take a moment to reflect on your experience visiting the gallery by answering the questions below.

Which work of art do you feel incorporates the most design elements? Which ones do you see in the work?

What was it like seeing the principles of design in real life?

Would you like to have more activities with real works of art during class?

Art History and Art Appreciation

Gallery Activity

Searching for Meaning in Contemporary Art

Though we've not yet reached the modern era in our class, it is still important to **engage** with works of art in person as much as possible. This way, we're better able to **understand** their significance and **appreciate** the various **techniques** and **materials** artists use to create their works.

Spend today's class viewing the works of art on display in gallery. Work on this activity **independently** until you're directed to partner up with a classmate to discuss your findings.

First, **walk through the show** and orient yourself to the pieces on display. List **3 different** media you see represented in the show.

Now, select **1** work of art to study more closely. Write down its artist and title below.

Spend time with the work of art and write down at least 5 observations about how the artist has approached their chosen technique(s), principles of design, and subject matter.

Next, discuss the work's **subject matter**. What is **represented** in the piece?

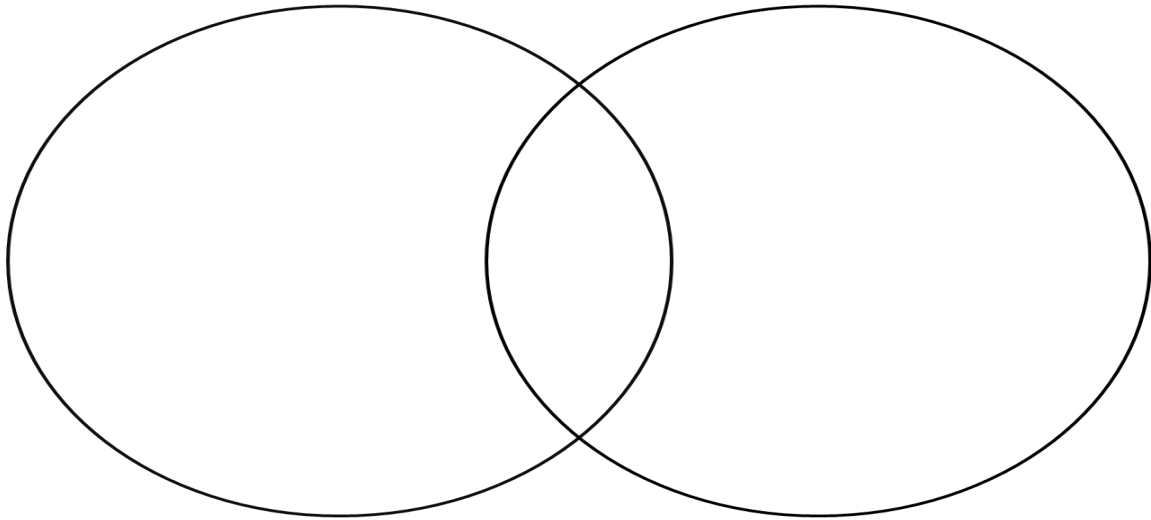
In your opinion, what is the **concept, meaning, or message** behind the work of art?

Why do you think that the artist chose to use the specific medium(s), technique(s), and design principles to communicate this message?

Find a second work of art to engage. Compare this new piece to the one you just studied by completing the Venn diagram below. Use one circle for the new piece and one for the work of

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art you already addressed. Write down at least 3 similarities they share and at least 3 things that make each work of art unique.



Based on the artworks we've studied in class and via our Canvas modules, which one most closely resembles the two pieces in the gallery that you have chosen to study?

Which work of art in the exhibition is your favorite or do you find most interesting? Why? (It can be one of the pieces you already addressed or a new one, the choice is yours!)

What is your reaction to this work of art? Does it raise certain emotions or memories for you? Remind you of something from another part of your life? Explain your reaction to the work below.

Next, **work with a partner** to address the works of art you studied. **Go through the worksheet together** and **take your partner** over to the works of art you chose to address in each question. Tell them **why** you picked each piece you've studied today and talk with them about their **opinions** of the work.

Write down at least 2 things you learned from your classmate today. They can be something new about a material or subject in the artworks or something else related to class.