Art Analysis

**Step 1- Describe**

* **What is the Artist name, Artwork title, Date / year created, size of work**
* **What is the subject of the artwork?**

e.g People, buildings, landscape, seascape, animals, plants, water , food, objects.

* **What is the style of the artwork?**

Realistic, stylised.

* **What type of art is this?**

Self-portrait, Portrait, Landscape, Cityscape, Seascape, Abstract, Nature, Still life, figurative.

* **What materials are being used in the artwork?**

Charcoal, sculpture, ink, graphite, markers, digital, pastels, fabric, yarn, photography, watercolour paint, acrylic paint, oil paint, colour pencils, collage, mixed media.

**Step 2 - Analyze**

* **How have the formal elements been used in the artwork? Line, tone, texture, shape, form, space, colour.**

e.g. What colours have been used? How is line used, What textures are being used?

How is space used?

* **Is there a focal point? if so, how does the artist emphasise this?**

**Step 3 – Interpret**

* **What do you think the purpose or the meaning was behind this artwork? Explain your answer.**

Expressive art, Narrative art, functional art, ceremonial or ritual art, decorative art, persuasive art, reflecting the world.

* **What do you think the meaning behind this artwork could be? ( it can be more than one!)**

Beauty, Mystery, Hate, Interest in colour, Admiration, Acceptance, Confusion, defiance, fear, Anger, Anxiety, Courage, Joy, Excitement, Loneliness, Hate, Grief, envy, Love, War, Hope, Interest in shapes, Complexity of design, Pride, Horror, Jealousy, Peace, Interest in textures, desire, wonder.

**Step 4 – Judge**

* **How do you feel about the overall work?**

Do you think the work is visually pleasing? What do you like most about it?

If you do not like the artwork, what do you like least about it?

**The Formal Elements of Art**

**The elements of formal analysis are building blocks that combine to create a larger structure.**

**Line** is the most basic building block of formal analysis. Line can be used to create more complex shapes or to lead your eye from one area in the composition to another.

**Tone** is the degree of light and dark in a design. It is the contrast between black and white and all the tones in between. Value can be used with colour as well as black and white. Contrast is the extreme changes between values.

**Shapes** are created when lines are combined to form a square, triangle, or circle. Shapes can be organic (irregular shapes found in nature) or geometric (shapes with strong lines and angles such as circles, triangles, and squares).

**Forms** are three-dimensional shapes with length, width, and depth. Balls, cylinders, boxes and pyramids are forms.

**Space** is the area between and around objects. Increasing or decreasing the amount of space around an object affects the way we view that object.

**Colour** differentiates and defines lines, shapes, forms, and space. Even black and white images have a huge number of different shades of grey.

**Texture** is the surface quality that can be seen and felt. Textures can be rough or smooth, soft or hard. Textures are often implied. For instance, a drawing of a rock might appear to have a rough and hard surface, but in reality is as smooth as the paper on which it is drawn.