Photography Art criticism

Art criticism is responding to, interpreting meaning, and making critical judgments about specific works of art.

Art critics help viewers perceive, interpret, and judge artworks.

Art historians tend to study works made in cultures that are more distant in time and space.

When initially introduced to art criticism, many people associate negative connotations with the word "criticism."

A professional art critic may bea newspaper reporter assigned to the art beat,a scholar writing for professional journals or texts, oran artist writing about other artists.

**Four levels of formal analysis. Below are examples to help you to explain a work of art:**

1. **Description** *What do you see?*

Architecture, sculpture, painting, photograph. Subject matter: still life, portrait, landscape. Medium of work : clay, stone, steel, paint, gelatin silver print, dye transfer print, etc. Elements of Art & Principles of Design including: Size, scale, shape, line-vertical, diagonal, horizontal, soft, jagged, thick, thin, variable, irregular, intermittent, indistinct. Relationships between shapes like large and small, overlapping. Color scheme. Compositional techniques.

1. **Analysis** *How did the artist do it?*

Naming iconographic elements: historical event, allegory, mythology, etc. Most distinctive features or characteristics like line, shape, color, texture, stable, repetitious, rhythmic, unified, symmetrical, harmonious, geometric, varied, chaotic, horizontal or vertically oriented. Analysis of use of light and role of color, like contrast, shadowy, low or high key, points of view, balance, proportion and scale and your emotional reaction: mood or feel of artwork.

1. **Interpretation** *Why did the artist create it and what does it mean?*

Main idea, overall meaning of the work. Can I express what I think the artwork is about in one sentence? What evidence inside or outside the artwork supports my interpretation?

1. **Judgment** *Is it a good artwork?*

What criteria do I think are most appropriate for judging the artwork? What evidence inside or outside the artwork relates to each criterion? Based on the criteria and evidence, what is my judgment about the quality of the artwork?

**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Per\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Work of art:**

**Title\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Artist\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**1. Description** *What do you see?*

**2. Analysis** *How did the artist do it?*

**3. Interpretation** *Why did the artist create it and what does it mean?*

**4. Judgment** *Is it a good artwork? LIST YOUR EVIDENCE.*

**Work of art:**

**Title\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Artist\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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